Oxfordshire Guardian

Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington

Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford

Thursday, February 8 - Wednesday, February 14, 2018 oxfordshireguardian.co.uk Free

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Multi-million pound boost for growing town's infrastructure

By Samantha McGregor

A MAJOR road improvement scheme has been given a multi-million pound government boost.

Cherwell District Council has been awarded a £6.7million grant to help fund the realignment of Howes Lane, in Bicester.

The new road, approved in 2016, aims to ease pressure on Howes Lane and improve capacity and "efficient movement" on the local transport network.

As part of the eco development a new road would be built opposite the current Howes Lane, a tunnel would be built under the railway embankment and a new junction created at Bucknell Road and Lords Lane, to link both sites.

Eco town developer A2Dominion is in negotiation with Network Rail over the plans, and as yet, a decision has not been made.

North Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis said: "I am delighted that Cherwell's bid has been successful. "We all recognise that Bicester is a rapidly growing town. It is essential that we secure investment to improve the town's infrastructure.

"This announcement is a start but we still have lots of work to do on the roads in Bicester particularly at the London Road crossing."

Town and district councillor Jolanta Lis said: "This allocation of funds from central government is very good news for Cherwell District Council, for Bicester town and especially for residents and businesses in West Bicester.

"Howes Lane, as the name suggests, is a small country lane with residential properties backing onto it, on what is currently a west boundary of Bicester.

"Over recent years it has carried an ever increasing flow of traffic as a result of housing and commercial developments and the need for its realignment has been recognised and incorporated into plans for North West Bicester Eco Town.

"This funding is a very good starting point to move the project forward."

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said: "This marks the first step of the multi-billion pound investment we announced at the budget to help build the homes our country needs.

"This fund finances vital infrastructure such as roads, schools and bridges, which will kick-start housing development in some of Britain's highest-demand areas."

The new road would pass through eco homes and would form a 'boulevard style' road with a 30mph speed limit.

Proposals for the current Howes Lane include creating new foot and cycle ways.

Rally cry for drivers

COUNCILLORS Maurice Billington and Colin Clarke waved the flag to send the racers off on their way in Banbury as they embarked on the next stage of the Rallye Monte Carlo Historique and Classique on Thursday.

See page 6 for more

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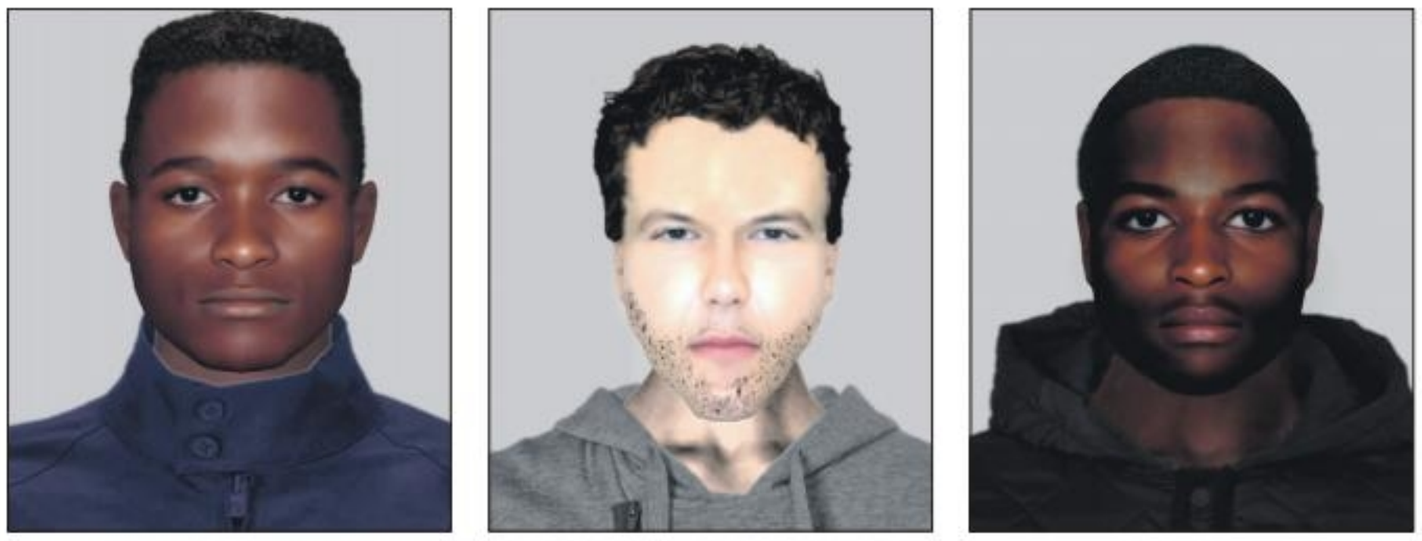


E-fits of three of the four men police want to speak to in connection with the attempted Bitcoin theft in Moulsford

E-fits reveal men sought over Bitcoin robbery bid

Descriptions of three released, no details of fourth

By George Welch

E-FITS of three men believed to be behind Britain's first digital currency heist have been released, as the police continue to hunt for suspects.

Armed robbers broke into a house in affluent Moulsford and tried to force city trader Danny Aston, 30, to transfer Bitcoins electronically over to them.

The gang of four broke into the property in Offlands Court, off Reading Road, at around 9.40am on January 22, holding two men and a woman at gunpoint.

Police have since confirmed the transaction was unsuccessful and the men fled empty-handed.

Police are yet to make an arrest and have released these images and descriptions of three of the men.

The first man is black, around 19 years old, 6ft 1in tall, of an athletic/slim build and was wearing a dark blue sports jacket with distinctive white slashes across the shoulder and down one arm. He was wearing similar colour trousers, but these were not a matching set. He was also wearing white shoes which made him stand out.

The second man is white, in his mid twenties, around 5ft 7ins tall and of slim build. He had long patchy stubble and was wearing a small rucksack on his back.

The third man is black, also in his mid twenties and is taller than 6ft. He was wearing a black Puffa-style jacket.

Officers revealed no details of the fourth man.

Mr Aston was struck in the head during the aggravated burglary but was not seriously injured. He attended the John Radcliffe Hospital and was later discharged.

Thames Valley Police are still appealing for information. Contact police on 101 quoting reference 43180021974 if you can help. Alternatively call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

InBrief

Growth deal backed

LEADERS of all six Oxfordshire councils have backed a £215m deal for 100,000 homes in the county.

The Oxfordshire Growth Board, made up of the six council leaders, met last week to officially recommend that the deal, announced in November's Autumn Budget, should be formally accepted.

The deal still needs to be agreed by all local authorities at special meetings but the delivery plan is being finalised with government officials.

The Growth Board wants to use £150m for transport infrastructure, £60m to guarantee affordable housing and another £5m to aid the planning process.

Bob Price, chairman of the Growth Board and a city councillor, said the deal "represents a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing Oxfordshire's housing, infrastructure and economic challenges".

"[The plan] recognises the critical role the county will play in driving forward the UK economy post-Brexit, attracting global investment," he added.

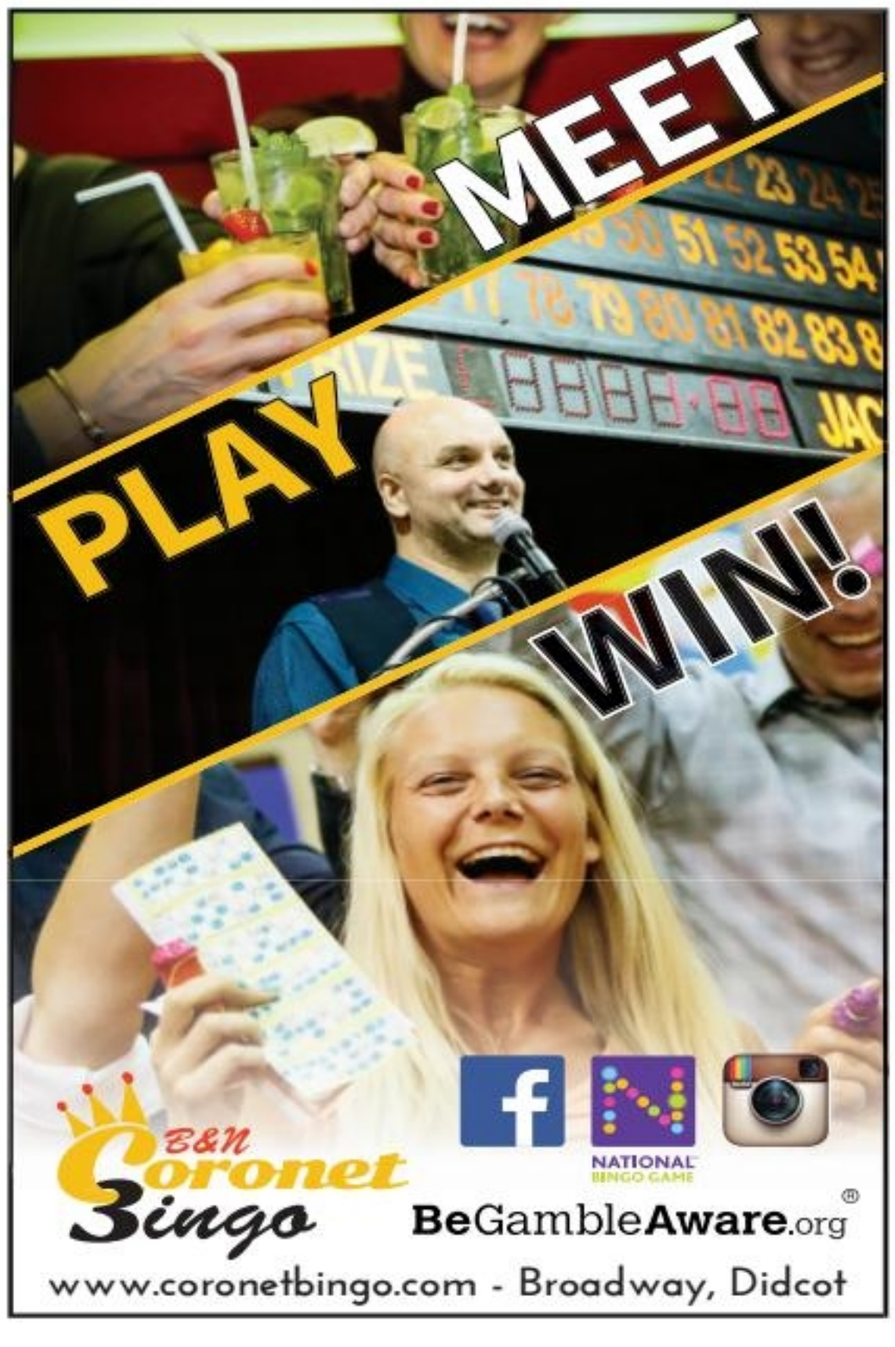
Burglary charges

TWO men accused of stealing £2,000 worth of wrapped presents from an Oxford home on Christmas Eve spoke only to confirm their names as they appeared in court for the first time last week.

Daniel Webb, 34, and Matthew Webb, 36, both of no fixed abode, appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Friday last week.

They are both charged with burglary following the break-in at a house in Walton Street, Jericho.

The men will appear at the same court to enter pleas on February 20.



Playground games fit for adults

Sarah Plater is helping Bicester Rabble get fit and have fun

PLAYGROUND games are being used to get grown ups moving and get fitter.

Called Bicester Rabble, the scheme offers immersive playground-style games including childhood favourites such as Capture the Flag, The Hunger Games, Dodgeball, British Bulldog and Jailbreak.

Founder and instructor Sarah Plater, who lives on the Kingsmere estate in Bicester, said: "I found out about Rabble in Time Out London magazine, and signed up for updates for if they ever launched nearer to Oxfordshire.

"I signed up for training in London and then became a franchisee after that.

"I have only played in London as up until now that was the only place it was on offer. Now franchises have launched as far off as America and Australia - it's really taking off."

Writer and photographer Sarah, 33, said during sessions players burn up to 1,000 calories and cover up to 8km in one game without even realising it.

She said: "It's really tough to keep doing exercise that you don't enjoy, as every time you have to convince yourself to do it for the long-term fitness gains. Bicester Rabble takes the opposite approach. It's fun, so you look forward to going every week. It's friendly, so you have great banter and social encouragement."

Bicester Rabble takes place at the new Whitelands Farm Sports Ground on Mondays from 6.45pm.

To sign up for a free session view joinrabble.com/bicester-sarah-plater/

Popular footballer dies after collapsing during match

HEARTBROKEN friends have paid tribute to popular Oxford man Wayne St Clair who died after collapsing during a veterans football match.

The player died at the John Radcliffe Hospital at about 4.30am on Thursday last week after falling ill during a game between Oxford University Press and Watlington Town the previous day.

Friend Michael Truby described Wayne, thought to be in his 40s, as the "nicest guy you'd meet," adding that he was "shocked and gutted" at his death.

New chapter for book shop in new premises as it celebrates 10 years

By Samantha McGregor

AN independent retailer has confirmed it is taking over a shop unit that has sat empty for more than five years.

Coles Books will move to the former Cargo unit – a much bigger space – in Crown Walk in June.

The move has been welcomed by a senior councillor as a "real commitment to Bicester town centre".

Shopping precinct Crown Walk has struggled to attract retailers and shoppers to the area over the past decade.

In 2012 it was given a revamp as part of the £70million town centre regeneration, but a number of units still remained empty.

As part of their 10th anniversary, owners Caroline and Nigel French, who took over the business in 2008, announced the move.

Nigel said: "The bookshop has always enjoyed strong links with the community, the move to bigger premises will help develop and strengthen those links further."

The new unit is double the size of their current Crown Walk unit and will allow a major expansion in activity at the shop.

Future plans include expanding the range of vinyl records and turntables and developing author events.

Caroline added: "This is such an exciting opportunity for Coles Books, and we very much look forward to sharing it with our customers."

Cllr Lynn Pratt, lead member for estates and economy at Cherwell District Council, said: "I am delighted that Coles Books are moving to larger premises in Crown Walk.

"This shows real commitment to Bicester town centre by Nigel and Caroline French, and I hope this will encourage other retailers to come into the town centre.

"Bicester is a growing town and to that end we need a good retail choice to serve the people who live here now and will do so in the future."

Coles opened in Bicester in 1990, at a smaller unit also in Crown Walk, and was originally known simply as The Book Shop.

It was taken over in 1994 and the name was changed to Coles Bookstore.

Caroline and Nigel French are celebrating 10 years at Coles Books with a move to larger premises in Crown Walk which has been viewed as a commitment to Bicester

Developers to appeal homes rejection amid various concerns

DEVELOPERS are appealing a decision to refuse planning permission for a development that would feature 115 homes in Carterton.

Plans to build on land west of Swinbrook Road in Carterton were originally submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council in March last year, but were refused three months later.

A lack of affordable housing, the impact on local wildlife, encroachment onto buffer land between Carterton and Shilton and a failure to prove residents would not suffer from "unacceptable levels" of light and noise pollution from nearby Carterton Football Club were among the reasons for refusal.

The council received 15 letters of objection to David Wilson Homes Southern's application to build the houses, up to 100 sq m of charity office space and an extension to the country park.

Mark Tate from Shilton objected on the grounds the development would "increase traffic at the incredibly dangerous Shilton Dip".

The developers have until February 22 to submit all representations for their appeal.

InBrief

Murder trial date

THE trial of a Banbury man charged with double murder is expected to start on March 5 at Oxford Crown Court.

The bodies of Adrian Fannon, 39, and Mark Pawley, 25, were found at a property on Newland Road, Banbury on Sunday, October 1, last year.

Raymond Morgan, 52, of Newland Road, Banbury, was charged with two counts of murder relating to the men's deaths.

Love for Cotswolds

TOURISM is booming across the Cotswolds, a new report has revealed.

There were 22.5million visitors to the popular rural destination, generating £745.7million for the area's economy.

In west Oxfordshire alone, 553,000 people stayed in the area while almost 3.7million visited for the day spending more than £252m.

The figures for 2016, compiled by the South West Research Company, also showed tourism was responsible for nine per cent of employment across the district.

Visit tinyurl.com/yceus6o5 to view the report.

Town by-election

VOTERS in Carterton will head to the polls next Thursday to elect a district councillor for the South ward.

There are three candidates on the ballot – Simon Adderley (Labour), Ben Lines (Liberal Democrat) and Michele Mead (Conservative). The winner will replace Tory Mick Brennan who retired in November.

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Jailed for sexually abusing young girl

A PAEDOPHILE is "where he belongs" after being sentenced to seven years and nine months for his crimes.

Stephen Foster, 53, of Woodstock Road, Charlbury, *pictured*, was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on January 17 after being found guilty of four counts of sexual activity with a young girl and one count of voyeurism between 2013 and 2015.

He also pleaded guilty to three counts of making indecent images of children.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Rebecca McLeod said: "It was only as a result of the victim's strength and courage that Foster has been convicted.

"The victim has to live with the psychological scars of what Foster did to her and I hope that the conviction will go some way in helping her rebuild her life and have the future she deserves.

"This was a long and complex investigation which has taken more than two years of joint work between the Child Abuse Investigation Unit, the Hi-Tech Crime Unit and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that Foster is where he belongs."

Foster was also given a 10-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order and will have to sign the Sex Offenders' Register for an indefinite period.

Dig in and help out at Cogges

A WEST Oxfordshire heritage farm is looking to grow its team of green-fingered volunteers before spring is sprung.

Witney-based Cogges Manor Farm is a historical farmstead in the heart of the Cotswolds with a team of 190 volunteers working across all areas of the charity.

But the heritage site is in need of volunteers to join its community to help prepare for the new season, which starts on March 17.

A spokesperson for Cogges said: "We're hoping to get as many new volunteers together as possible to help us get the site ready for spring and for a very busy new year to come.

"The walled kitchen garden alone takes a lot of care and attention, preparing and planting, and to do this we need volunteers.

"This is a special call out for anyone with green fingers, or indeed anyone who wishes to learn more about what it takes to look after one of the most beautiful gardens in the country."

In 2016, Cogges was awarded a prize for the best volunteer team in Oxfordshire by OCVA, Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action.

Visit cogges.org.uk or call Laura Dean on 01993 772602 to find out more.

InBrief

Raising funds for bus

A Witney-based charity is running a craft fair to raise funds for the homeless.

The event hosted by Homes4All will be held at the Corn Exchange in Witney on February 17 and 18.

The charity is hoping to pay for a double decker bus to be turned into accommodation for the homeless.

For more information, visit https://tinyurl.com/ycn2f63q.

Resurfacing work

CURBRIDGE Road in Witney will be closed for four days for resurfacing works.

Motorists are advised to divert using Ducklington Lane and Thorney Leys while works are carried out from Monday next week. The road is due to reopen on Friday, February 16.

Contact Simon Marsden of Oxfordshire County Council on 0345 310 11 11 for more information.

Litter blitz success

WASTE the equivalent to the weight of two elephants was removed from Bure Park, in Bicester, as part of a Cherwell District Council blitz.

A team of six council street cleansers removed litter, flytips and graffiti throughout the area at the end of January.

A total of 9.26 tonnes was collected including 860kg by hand and 7,520kg using mechanical sweepers.

YASA praised for work to become world leader

By George Welch

A NEW electric motor factory pledging to build up to 100,000 motors for hybrid and electric vehicles a year was officially opened by business secretary Greg Clark last week.

Motor manufacturer YASA, based in Yarnton, which is considered a world-leading electric motor manufacturer, said the factory would create 150 jobs.

The Oxford University spin-out company, based at Oxford Industrial Park, builds next generation environmentally-friendly hybrid and fully electric vehicles.

It aims to export 80 per cent of the technology across the world, including China.

Mr Clark used his visit to Oxfordshire last Thursday to announce the government's major £184million investment in engineer training.

The cash will be handed to 41 UK universities to help train the next generation of world-class engineers and exceptional scientists through doctoral training partnerships.

YASA CEO Chris Harris said: "YASA is a great example of what the UK can and should expect to achieve if we invest in the innovative and creative ideas emerging from our best universities, and have the determination and patience to turn those great ideas into world-beating companies.

Business Secretary Greg Clark, left, with YASA CEO Chris Harris as a new 100,000 capacity electric motor production facility was opened. Picture: *Department of BEIS*

"With the right support and investment, companies like YASA can become the powerhouse of the UK's future economy, creating a wide range of high-skilled jobs and benefiting the communities of which they are a part."

The funding pot aims to develop the UK economy as the most innovative in the world based around high-quality infrastructure and businesses that can lead the world in high-tech, highly-skilled industries.

Mr Clark said: "Innovation is the lifeblood of our industrial strategy and our economy.

"This spirit is embodied by YASA, a thriving business that has emerged from one of our finest academic institutions and is now helping to deliver the UK's ambition to lead the world in meeting [what] the [government terms] the grand challenges.

"The factory I have opened [YASA] is testimony to what can be achieved through our industrial approach, when academia, government and industry come together."

The government's industrial strategy identified four key main challenges: growing an artificial intelligence and data driven economy; clean growth; future of mobility and an ageing society.

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News

Enthusiasts rally round classic cars

SCORES of people lined the streets of Banbury to catch a glimpse of the iconic Monte Carlo Rally.

One by one drivers taking part in the famous Rallye Monte Carlo Historique and Classique, stopped off in Banbury, one of the official passage control points.

It was the first time in 50 years the rally stopped in the town – and last Thursday classic cars of all shapes and sizes parked up in Bridge Street and Market Place.

Monte Carlo drivers started arriving in the town from 11am, having travelled from Barnby Moor in Nottinghamshire.

Cherwell District Council chairman Cllr Maurice Billington, who welcomed the drivers at Banbury Town Hall, said: "The Monte Carlo Rally event has been a great success and I am really glad that residents and visitors have enjoyed it.

"The high attendance, even on a weekday, is an international recognition for Banbury as a key place for motorsport.

Local classic and racing car businesses also staged an exhibition of vehicles in the town.

Among those taking part were Prodrive, Nissan, BGM, Tuthill Porsche and Cropredy Bridge, as well as a number of private owners.

Douglas Anderson, coordinator of the UK leg of the rally, said:

Historic and classic cars drew the crowds in Banbury on Thursday as part of the Monte Carlo Rally

"We chose Banbury because it is located in the centre of the motorsport valley and, given the successful turn out for the Monte Carlo passage, I must say we made the right choice."

The 1,500-mile rally finished in Monaco on Sunday.

MP: Hospice must be given financial help to continue its work

By Eva Astreinidou

HEALTH bodies need to step in to help a hospice cope with mounting financial issues.

Oxford East MP Anneliese Dodds has called on Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to help Helen & Douglas House which last week announced it would have to close one of its care hubs to ensure its long-term survival.

The charity predicts it will have a £2.5m deficit by the end of March due to a shortfall in funding. In addition to closing its hub for young people aged 18-35, it will also have to axe 35 jobs.

Ms Dodds said: "I know the very valuable work that Helen & Douglas House does. There really is no facility like it.

"Perhaps the local Clinical Commissioning Group could find a way to help, especially if this could help generate additional, sustainable, funding."

In a statement released last week, a spokesperson for Helen & Douglas House which provides end of life care and support to families, said one of the challenges the charity faces is that local clinical commissioning groups have different approaches to how much financial support they can provide.

They added: "Many support the charity but Oxfordshire's CCG does not. Over 40 per cent of the care we provide is to children who live in Oxfordshire. Given the decisions we are now having to make, we hope that further discussions may lead to a change in this approach."

Diane Hedges, chief operating officer at OCCG, said: "We are sorry to hear that Helen & Douglas House is having to change the service it provides.

"Going forward, the CCG will work with [the charity] to ensure those patients being cared for, from Oxfordshire, will continue to receive any essential healthcare which is currently provided by the charity.

"The CCG keeps all these palliative care services under review as required and Helen & Douglas House can bid for contracts. We also meet regularly with end of life care stakeholders and providers in Oxfordshire."

She added that the CCG commissions end of life care for people over the age of 18 from Michael Sobell House in Oxford, Sue Ryder hospice in south Oxfordshire and Katharine House hospice in north Oxfordshire.

Helen & Douglas House has said it will help its young adult patients access alternative care where available in the community, while they plan to continue to provide specialist palliative care for terminally ill children and young people aged 0-18 years old both at Helen House and at home.

Inquest told of strange behaviour before blast

By Eva Astreinidou

AN explosion that tore through a block of flats is believed to have been caused by petrol fumes igniting.

Almost a year since homes in Gibbs Crescent, West Oxford, were destroyed in a Valentine's Day blast, the first details of a lengthy investigation have emerged.

An inquest at Oxford Coroner's Court yesterday heard the remains of Guido Schuette, 46, were found in the rubble on February 18.

The court was told Mr Schuette had four vehicles and collected car parts which he stored in the flat.

Detective Sergeant David Whittle and fire service station manager Bob Speakman said they found large quantities of petrol fuel, as well as a pair of crocodile clips attached to a car battery near the remains.

DS Whittle said the fuel was likely to have been stored there to use as a solvent to clean car parts, rather than for the intention of self-harm or harm to others.

Mr Speakman agreed, adding the flat appeared to be more of a workshop than a place of residence.

DS Whittle said police officers had been called to Mr Schuette's flat after reports of screaming just days before the incident, on February 10.

The explosion at the flats in Gibbs Crescent last year and inset, Guido Schuette who was killed in the blast

PC McKeegan, who was one of the officers who attended, said they had to force their way into the flat due to concerns over welfare.

In a statement read to the court, neighbour Darren Vernon, who alerted the police, said he had heard Mr Schuette screaming: "Everyone wake up, it is the master, the master is here".

Mr Vernon said he was aware Mr Schuette had stored fuel in his flat, and he was afraid Mr Schuette might do something to cause harm using the fuel.

The court also heard from another neighbour who was involved in a harassment dispute with Mr Schuette.

Statements from family members were also read out in court, in which he was described as a 'loner'.

The inquest was ongoing as we went to press.

Man on bicycle groped women

POLICE are on the lookout for a serial groper who sexually assaulted an Oxford woman from his bicycle.

An e-fit image has been released following the incident which took place on December 6 at about 6.30pm on the cycle path in Marston Ferry Road.

The offender stopped his bicycle to let a 45-year-old woman pass before attempting to touch her inappropriately.

He remained in the area watching the victim for another few seconds before cycling away.

Police believe the offender could have links to four other assaults in Oxford since November last year.

The first occurred in Lime Walk, Headington, on November 15, and three others occurred on the Marston Ferry Road on January 11, 18 and 28.

In each case, the offender touched women inappropriately from his bicycle.

The man is described as a gaunt and skinny white man aged in his early twenties, wearing dark clothing and a beanie hat during each incident.

The man is thought to have worn a beanie hat and dark clothing during the four sexual assaults

Investigating officer, PC Rebecca Nightingale, based at Banbury police station, said: "We would like to speak to anyone who recognises this man or who has any information which could help us identify the person in this e-fit image."

Witnesses or anyone with information should call Thames Valley Police on 101 quoting reference 43170363277, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The magic of Quidditch at Brookes

THE country's finest seekers, chasers and beaters will bring the magic to Oxford after the city was selected to host the British Quidditch Cup.

The Harry Potter inspired competition will take place at Brookes Sport in Botley on March 24 and 25 and feature 32 teams.

Organiser Quidditch UK says more than 800 people play the sport, which also draws on rugby and dodgeball, and participation is growing.

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News

4,000km challenge to help cancer research

By Owen Hughes

Kate, left, and Anna have been training on the Thames at Donnington Bridge Road, Oxford
Donations can be made at: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KayakingTheContinent

ADVENTURERS from Oxford are kayaking 4,000km from England to Romania to raise funds for a pancreatic cancer charity.

Anna Blackwell, 24, from Summertown, and Kate Culverwell, 19, from Headington, will begin paddling across Europe in April, navigating their way from the English Channel to the Black Sea over four months.

The former Headington School pupils are hoping their tandem kayak through 13 countries and four capital cities can raise £50,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Action.

Kate's father died from the disease in 2015 mid-way through her A-levels.

Anna, who will quit her part-time job with an Oxford-based legal firm to become a full-time adventurer, said: "Pancreatic cancer is one of the least funded and least researched cancers that there is and it's on its way to being one of the top five cancer killers in Europe.

"Despite that, there's still so little funding put into it; I think it's less than one per cent of Cancer Research UK's funding that actually goes to pancreatic cancer.

"A big part of our trip is raising awareness of this disease and trying to raise as much money as we can for it."

Anna and Kate are preparing for the trip with a gruelling training regime in the gym and out on the water at Falcon Rowing and Canoe Club in Iffley.

Anna added: "Tuesday morning when it was -2°C, I was on the river in the dark, which was an experience, but we're normally in the gym for at least an hour and a half before work with one day off a week."

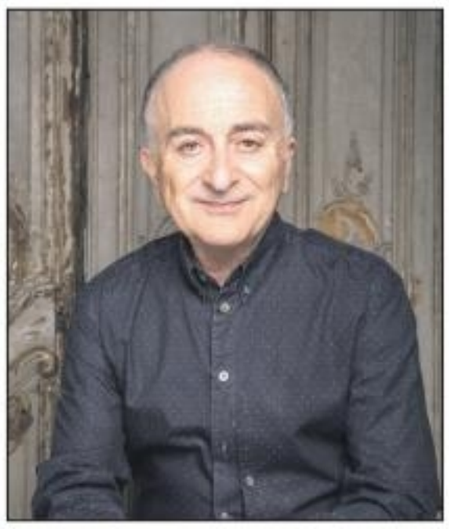
Supported by the Young Explorers' Trust, the pair will also contribute data to a global citizen science project for FreshWater Watch measuring the effects of urban areas on phosphate and nitrate levels and living organisms in Europe's waterways.

Anna said: "If tracking 4,000km wasn't enough for us to be dealing with, we thought we'd chuck something else into the mix.

"Kate's a musician and I did a psychology degree, so we're both completely new to this kind of research."

A spokesperson for Pancreatic Cancer Action said: "Kate and Anna are taking on an incredibly tough challenge. We can't wait to see what these brave girls achieve."

Cunning plan to meet Sir Tony at first Comic Con


Sir Tony Robinson will be at Abingdon & Witney College in April

BLACKADDER and Time Team star Sir Tony Robinson is the latest headline guest announced for a new comic convention coming to Oxfordshire.

The comedy legend will meet fans, sign autographs and take part in a live Q&A session during the inaugural Thames Con at Abingdon and Witney College's Abingdon campus on April 28.

The comic actor shot to fame in his role as Baldrick in the classic BBC sitcom Blackadder and more recently presented the popular archaeology programme Time Team during its 19-year run.

In 2006, he was granted an honorary doctorate from Oxford Brookes University before receiving a Knighthood in 2013.

Festival organiser Zainab Mirmalek said: "I wanted to create an event that had something for everyone, that's really inclusive and also entertaining.

"To have Sir Tony joining us for our first event is very exciting, I loved his comedic roles as a child and couldn't think of a better headline guest for Thames Con."

Hollywood stunt group 3RUN, who have worked on The Avengers, Star Wars and Pirates of the Caribbean, will be performing parkour for festival goers.

Blue Peter presenter Lindsey Russell, comicbook artist Lee Townsend, movie prop maestro Dangerous BoB, and Game of Thrones actors Josef Altin and Ross Mullan will also feature.

For tickets visit www.thamescon.co.uk

Saddles stolen after garden shed break-ins

TEN saddles were stolen after thieves broke into garden sheds in a south Oxfordshire village.

Police said the unknown offenders broke into three sheds at the back of a garden on Eyres Lane, Ewelme.

The incident happened between 1am and 8am on Tuesday last week.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference 43180031252 with any information on the burglary or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Headline Act
Geoff Norcott is quite simply one of the most in demand live comics and TV writers around. He can be seen headlining shows at The Comedy Store, supporting the likes of Katherine Ryan and Kevin Bridges – or even earning an operational services medal for his work gigging on the frontline in Afghanistan.
In addition to his live comedy work, Geoff is correspondent for BBC2's The Mash Report and will also be seen in the new series of Live At The Apollo. Geoff has also guested on BBC1's Question Time, BBC2's Daily Politics and BBC Radio 4's The Now Show. 2018 will see Geoff star in his own BBC Radio 4 special.
Norcott is an absolute tonic ***** The Telegraph
Compere
Danny Ward's observational humour is up-beat and well honed and his manic style both endearing and very funny. With a high energy set and brilliantly well observed material covering everything from the randomness of the Lidl, to how to get the 'London Look' the gags keep coming.
"Slick, quick and packed with funny material" ThreeWeeks
"Tight on gags and tongue twisting set pieces" Huffington Post
Doors open at 7.00pm
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Dan Evans appeared on the comedy circuit in 1994, shortly afterwards leaving a promising career as one of East Anglia's leading office menials to go full time. Dan's TV and radio appearances include Brain Candy (BBC3 & 2), Comedy Zone and The Store Channel 5 and the Radio 2 Stand Up Show.
"Skilful and surreal" – The Scotsman
middle section
Two shorter spots in the middle section
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Horton campaigners join protest to highlight concerns about NHS

By Samantha McGregor

DOZENS of protestors rallied at the Horton Hospital as part of a nationwide campaign to highlight concerns about the NHS.

Thousands of people, including members of the Keep the Horton General campaign group, marched in London to share their anger over the mounting crisis facing the NHS

While up to 60 people staged their own protest at the Banbury hospital, in Oxford Road, on Saturday.

Labour group leader Sean Woodcock, who attended the Banbury protest, said: "There was a good crowd considering the poor weather and late notice.

"It was important to go along and show that there are still people willing to fight for our hospital. Determination among those who attended remains."

Sue Edgar, chair of Labour Health Matters, a working group of the Banbury and Bicester constituency Labour Party, welcomed the local protest and said the group would continue to "battle to prevent irreparable harm being done to our local communities through the loss of a fully functioning hospital".

It comes as North Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis raised concerns about "lines of communication" between herself, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, about maternity services.

Campaigners gathered at the Horton on Saturday in solidarity with a rally in London

Last month, midwives had to be drafted into Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital, from around the county meaning a reduced and cancelled service at some other midwife-led units.

Mrs Prentis said: "I was extremely disappointed to find out that the Horton MLU has been closed on two separate occasions in recent weeks.

"It should not be for my constituents to tell me what is going on, but for the Trust to come to me with the information I need to allay people's concerns.

"I have made no secret of the fact that I feel lines of communication are poor; since changes to obstetric services were first announced in the summer of 2016, it has been very difficult to extract the relevant information.

"I continue to make my views known to both the Trust and local Clinical Commissioning Group at every opportunity, and remain committed to fight for the future of the Horton General Hospital."

OUH Trust said it had experienced "an unusually high level of demand on our maternity unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital" over the weekend of January 20 and 21, and in line with processes on-call midwives were drafted in. It said the Horton unit remained open.

Dame Fiona Caldicott, chairman of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, says: "We were disappointed to hear Victoria Prentis' comments.

"We strive to be as open and transparent as possible with our patients, governors, local communities and MPs.

"Our board meetings are held in public with papers published on our website in advance."

InBrief

Ram raid attempt

POLICE are on the hunt for more ram raiders after vandals failed in the latest bid to steal an in-store cash machine.

The latest attempt is the fourth incident across Oxfordshire within two months.

Saturday night's raid involved a stolen Land Rover Discovery being reversed into the Aldi store at Horspath Driftway, Oxford at around 11.50pm to try and remove the cash machine from inside the store.

Defeated, they abandoned the 4x4 and fled the scene on foot.

The latest ram raid on a supermarket follows similar raids in Chipping Norton in December and in Charlbury and Grove last month.

Police have not said whether the raids are linked.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference 1461 3/2 if you have any information on the latest incident.

Housing for all bid

THAME Town Council is looking for volunteers to set up and run a Community Land Trust.

The aim is to provide 'genuinely' affordable housing and to aid first time buyers.

Volunteers should have a background in architecture, planning, building of small estates, finance, law and charity governance.

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News

Zambia cycle in memory of his brother

By Samantha McGregor

A BANBURY man is gearing up to ride hundreds of miles to raise cash in memory of his brother.

Alfred Chipembele wants to raise £3,650 for a road safety project in Zambia run by charity Transaid.

Alfred, who works at Banbury's DAR Lighting, will cycle in memory of his brother Millios Tembo who was killed at a Zebra crossing in Lusaka in Zambia.

Now Alfred has now joined a global effort to prevent road deaths in his native Zambia.

He is in training for Transaid's Cycle Zambia 2018, in which he will ride 490kilometres from Lusaka to Victoria Falls in Zambia.

Alfred Chipembele gears up to cycle 490km in memory of his brother who was killed in Lusaka

Alfred said: "I have joined colleagues on a campaign mission to create road safety awareness in an effort to reduce road traffic accidents in Zambia and Africa in general.

"In March 2008 my own elder brother Millios Tembo – a professional driver himself was just two years away from his retirement – lost his life together with his friend at a zebra crossing after being hit by a minibus driver in Lusaka.

"I believe many such horrific accidents can be prevented if driver training and government road safety policy makers put more emphasis on the importance of road safety and driving standards.

"The prevalence of road traffic accidents in Zambia cannot be over emphasised, destroying lives and delaying the economic and social progress of the nation.

"It is for these reasons and in memory of all those loved ones who have been lost as a result of reckless driving and defective vehicles that I have decided to be part of the Cycle Zambia challenge."

According to the World Bank, road deaths are the third biggest killer in sub Saharan Africa after HIV/AIDS and Malaria.

Another successful road safety scheme run by Transaid is the Zambia Professional Driver Training initiative.

To sponsor Alfred go to justgiving.com/fundraising/alfred-chipembele

Couple jailed for running brothel in Oxford

A COUPLE who ran brothels in locations across the country, including one in Oxford, have been jailed.

Martin Cheetham and Christina Motta, *pictured*, admitted running brothels in Cowley, as well as Bristol and Milton Keynes between November 2015 and April 2016 – making more than £24,000.

The couple also pleaded guilty to controlling prostitution for gain in relation to one woman found in the Bristol address who they created and maintained online escort adverts for and arranged for travel between brothels.

Appearing at Bristol Crown Court on January 12, Cheetham, 42 and Motta, 35, of Milton Keynes, were sentenced to 12 months and 18 months in prison respectively.

Detective Constable Dale Morgan said: "Cheetham and Motta deliberately took advantage of these vulnerable women working in their brothels. It is unacceptable they should benefit from their activities and we will seek to confiscate their illegal earnings through the Proceeds of Crime Act.

"It took immense courage for the victim to support our inquiry and I hope these sentences will give other victims of controlled prostitution and modern slavery the strength and belief to come forward."

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Complimentary Cream Tea included on this break!

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Day 2: Today is left free to explore Ludlow at your own pace. It's a 900year-old Norman market town with medieval streets that survive to this day almost intact. There's an 'Antiques Roadshow' type evening at the hotel - so do bring along something you'd like valued. A local expert will be on hand to value and give a talk and have a bit of fun.
Day 3: Today we follow part of the 'Black and White Village Trail' - a circular meander that takes in some of the most unspoilt villages of Herefordshire finishing with a **CREAM TEA** in Leominster. After dinner tonight - a local quiz.
Day 4: Morning visit to the Ludlow food centre for a talk and tasting of local produce. Later we visit Hereford city and enjoy some free time here. The Cathedral is highly recommended.
Day 5: After a last hearty breakfast, we leave for home.

Feathers Hotel, Ludlow ★ ★ ★ *See website for full details.*

Coach departs: **Monday 5th March £249**

Price includes: **4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out.** *Single room supplement £25*

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Day 1: We arrive at the Headland hotel this afternoon where we stay for 3 nights including 5-course dinners, sumptuous buffet breakfasts and entertainment each evening.
Day 2: Today we visit the charming small Devon towns of Sidmouth and Dawlish.
Day 3: This morning we see Dartmouth - one of Devon's most picturesque harbour towns.
This afternoon we are back in Torquay to enjoy some time in resort.
Day 4: We leave for home after a last, hearty 'Headland' breakfast to see us on our way.

Headland Hotel, Torquay ★ ★ ★
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Price includes: **3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out.** *Single room supplement £21*

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Day 1: We arrive at Lakeside late afternoon. Check in, settle-in and look forward to your first evening of a good dinner and great entertainment later.
Day 2: A trip to the historic city of Winchester. It's amazing Cathedral one of the oldest in the country (begun in 1079) - a must-see while you're here. Also see the old city centre, with its narrow pedestrian streets and overhanging medieval buildings. Of special interest are the Pentice, a group of old shops arcaded at the front, and the Butter Cross, dating back to the 15th century and built with a tax levied on people caught eating butter during Lent.
Day 3: A trip to the pretty riverside town of Arundel - dominated by its beautiful Castle.
Day 4: Enjoy a last, hearty 'Warner's' breakfast to see us on our journey home today.

Coach departs: **Friday 27th April £209**

Price includes: **3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out.** *Single room supplement £20*

Scenic Suffolk
5 day coach holiday
★ ★ ★ ★

5 Days £296

A most relaxing holiday... exploring the idyllic scenery and rich heritage of Suffolk - a county which inspired the famous artist 'Constable!'

Here's the details...

Day 1: Join the coach this morning as we make our way to our hotel on the outskirts of Colchester.
Day 2: This morning we visit the National Trust attraction of Flatford Mill on the River Stour. The Mill and Willy Lott's House are instantly recognisable since they feature in many paintings by John Constable. In the afternoon we visit the beautiful Beth Chatto Gardens. Started from an overgrown wasteland 1960 with poor gravel soil, it has been transformed into gardens that are an inspiration to anyone who visits them. You'll learn more about the history and philosophy of Beth Chatto during your visit.
Day 3: This morning we visit the capital of East Anglia - Bury St Edmunds, famous for its beautiful Abbey Gardens and the Angel Hotel, where Dickens had Mrs Pickwick stay. This afternoon we stop a while in the lovely, typically English village of Lavenham, with its many half-timbered buildings and famous crooked house. ***A cream tea in Lavenham is included.***
Day 4: Today we visit one of the finest moated Tudor Houses in England - Kentwell Hall. Not so much a 'stately home' but very much a lived-in and loved family home.
**At times when Kentwell Hall is closed to the public we visit the National Trust property 'Melford Hall' which is nearby.*
Day 5: We leave for home after a last hearty breakfast to see us on our way.

Marks Tey Hotel, Colchester ★ ★ ★ ★
See website for full details.

Coach departs: **Monday 23rd April £296**

Price includes: **4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and trips out.** ***Single room supplement*** *£90*

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Here's the full details...

Day 1: We drive down to the south coast and board the ferry to the Isle of Wight and then we make the short drive to Warner's Bembridge Coast Hotel - on the east coast between Ryde and Sandown.
Day 2: We visit some lovely locations on the Island starting with Alum Bay to view the famous 'Needles' and one of the most photographed and prettiest villages on the Island, Godshill with afternoon tea at 'The Old Smithy'.
Day 3: We visit the capital Newport and the seaside town of Ryde, there's time to browse and have lunch here if you wish.
Day 4: After a last, hearty 'Warner's' breakfast - it's time to go home, unfortunately!

Guest rooms have: en-suite bath or shower, comfy beds, complimentary toiletries, TV, phone, chairs, reading lights, hairdryer, iron and tea/coffee tray. Note; Single rooms at Bembridge are chalet-style and separate from the main hotel.

Coach departs: **Friday 23rd March £189**

Price includes: **3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and ferry travel and trips out.** *Single room supplement £20*

Dunoon
Scottish Highlands

7 Days £366

All the way to Scotland with an overnight stop in Liverpool and 4 nights in the very scenic Scottish Highlands...

Here's the full details...

Day 1: On our way to Scotland we stop overnight in the vibrant, friendly city of Liverpool.
Day 2: We head to Gourock in Scotland and take the ferry over to Dunoon. We stay for 4 nights at the Esplanade Hotel.
Day 3: A scenic meandering drive to Loch Lomand. After a while in Loch Lomond we visit the attractive seaside town of Helensburgh.
Day 4: We'll enjoy another picture-postcard drive through the Argyll Forest and along the shores of Loch Fyne and spend time in Inveraray.
Day 5: Today is left free so you can explore Dunoon at your own pace.
Day 6: We leave Scotland and break our journey home with an overnight stay in Lancashire at the Legacy Hotel.
Day 7: We complete the final leg of our journey home.

Esplanade Hotel, Dunoon ★ ★ ★
The Esplanade Hotel is located on West Bay Promenade and close to all local amenities. This lovely 3 star is one of Dunoon's foremost hotels, family owned and run by a very friendly, caring and professional team. Inside, the hotel is well-presented throughout from the public areas to the guest rooms with full facilities (ensuite, TV, phone, hairdryer, tea/coffee) and lift to all floors.

Coach departs: **Sunday 29th April £366**

Price includes: **6 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and ferry travel and trips out as shown.** ***S.S. £75***

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News

Concern over plan to convert hotel into retirement homes

VILLAGERS in Wheatley are resisting plans to turn a 'historic' hotel into 16 retirement homes.

The plans include demolishing the former Railway Inn to make way for a three-storey building providing homes for people aged 55 and over.

But several residents have called for the plans for the site in Station Road to be refused citing their overbearing nature and risks to safety.

Commenting on the plans, Wheatley resident B Froderman said: "I have chosen to live here because of the views and very much enjoy the light I get through a large window.

"I would not get any sunlight at all unless the building would be one level only. In addition I am concerned about noise pollution due to the high number of proposed apartments."

Other residents said the plans would put people at risk due to increased traffic flow.

Richard Robinson said: "As this through route is so busy, senior pedestrian movements may be put as risk through the lack of a safe crossing point."

Wheatley Parish Council also objected to the plans, adding that there would be inadequate parking spaces for the number and size of the residences.

South Oxfordshire District Council planning committee met to discuss the controversial proposals yesterday.

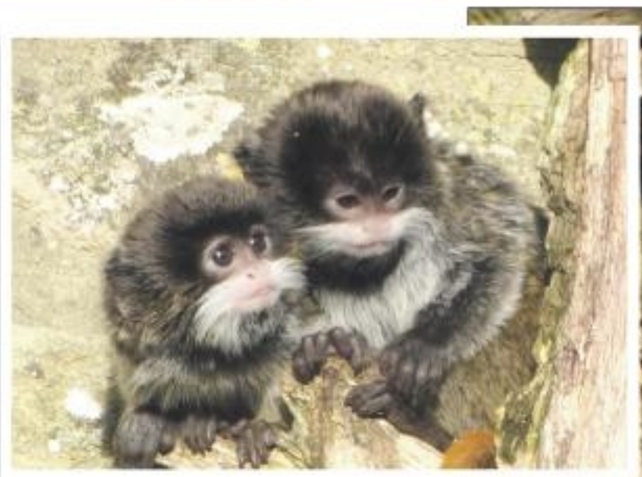
Hunter Page, the agents working on behalf of developers Beechcroft, were contacted for comment.

Flying the flag for LGBTQ+

THE start of LGBTQ+ history month was marked with flags flying across Oxford.

Events across the city will feature messages of inclusion, equality and diversity and throughout the month, Oxford University museums will host their second 'Out in Oxford' trail to remind visitors LGBTQ+ people have always been an integral part of life.

Last year's inaugural tour marked the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality in England and Wales.



Tamarin twins take a sneaky peak at park

FURRY moustachioed animals welcomed two new additions to their family in Oxfordshire.

Cotswold Wildlife Park is celebrating the arrival of emperor tamarin twins, a species that usually comes from the tropical climates of Brazil and Peru.

The as-yet-unnamed and unsexed twins, weighing just 35g, are on show in their enclosure at the park.

The babies are now enjoying bonding with their parents, while the father takes on the majority of duties by placing each newborn on his back and passing the babies back to the mother to be suckled.

Deputy section head of primates, Natalie Horner said: "Male tamarins take an active role in rearing their young by carrying and caring for the infants the majority of the time. The babies only return to their mother to feed. They even teach the older youngsters how to care for their younger siblings, which is an important part of their development."

With spectacular crests, ear tufts and moustaches, emperor tamarins are incredible animals

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Above, one cheeky Emperor Tamarin baby gets to grips with dad's moustache and inset, the twins say hello
Pictures: *Debbie Ryan*

who are named after the Emperor of Germany, Emperor Wilhelm II, who boasted a particularly impressive moustache.

Some species of tamarins are now classed as critically endangered, due to deforestation and trapping for the pet trade and medical research.

Virtual reality help for mental health patients

By George Welch

GROUND-BREAKING treatment that could transform the lives of mental health patients will be pioneered in Oxford as part of a £4million project.

The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) last week awarded the grant to enable state-of-the-art therapy for mental health issues to be delivered via virtual reality in the NHS.

Health chiefs want to use Oxford University spinout and virtual reality business Nowican alongside NHS trusts, universities, a mental health charity and the Royal College of Art to design the product.

It works by patients using VR headsets to combat tasks and simulations they may find distressing in real-life.

The VR coach will guide them through the simulations and practise techniques to overcome their difficulties.

The practice is based on the theory that patients find this sort of thing easier in the virtual world.

Project lead, Professor Daniel Freeman from Oxford University's Department of Psychiatry, said: "Our project will see one of the most exciting and powerful new technologies implemented in the NHS for the first time.

A virtual reality coach will guide patients through scenarios helping to treat conditions such as depression and anxiety

"Virtual reality treatment can help patients transform their lives. When people put on our headsets, a virtual coach takes them into computer-generated simulations of the situations they find troubling.

"The coach guides the patient through these scenarios, helping them practise techniques to overcome their difficulties.

"Patients often find it easier to do this work in the virtual world – and they enjoy using our VR applications – but the beauty is that the benefits transfer to the real world."

Over the next three years the virtual reality treatment will be designed with input from those with mental health problems to ensure it is simple to use, engaging, and right for patient needs.

A large multi-centre clinical trial in NHS trusts across the country will then take place before it is rolled out across the country.

If the trial is successful it could pave the way for VR treatments for common mental health disorders such as depression or anxiety.

InBrief

More pothole cash

MORE government cash has been thrown at fixing Oxfordshire's roads to tackle the effects of a tough winter.

Oxfordshire County Council has recruited more workers to deal with problems on its roads as the number of reports on Fix My Street rose from 3,000 before Christmas to 7,000 during January.

A new 'dragon patcher' – named because of its nozzle that blasts potholes with flames – will also roar into action later this month.

The council received £1m from the Department for Transport to deal with the impact of the bad weather, which has included repeated cycles of ice, thaws and snow.

Defects reported include signs, blocked drains and potholes.

Contractors Skanska are sending out more teams to carry our repairs while council inspectors work across the county to assess the public's defect reports.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8jarbsg to report a problem.

A blitz on names

THAME Town Council has announced the names of its new snow plough – Betsy Blitzer & Percy Plough.

It comes after the council threw down the gauntlet to residents asking them to put forward names for the snow plough on social networking site Twitter.

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Blending town and gown to create the spirit of Oxford

By Karen Neville

A TRUE blend of old and new have created something very special in Oxford joining town and gown in a unique way.

The University of Oxford together with The Oxford Artisan Distillery have launched Physic Gin using the historic botanic gardens and the city's very own gin distillery.

Unveiled last week, the spirit has come out of a 25-year licence, thought to be the first of its kind granted by the university, allowing the distillery in partnership with the uni to create Oxford-branded spirits.

TOAD opened in Cheney Lane in July last year and uses ancient grains, grown exclusively for it in fields near Oxford – one of the factors which first attracted the director of Oxford Botanic Garden, Professor Simon Hiscock, to the project.

He said: "I had always felt gin would go down well in a botanic garden, so when I met Tom [Nicholson, founder of TOAD] and discovered that Oxford was about to get its first craft distillery, the opportunity was too hard to resist."

And from there the spirit began to take shape.

TOAD and the garden began a three-year collaboration which gave the distiller exclusive access to university resources and expertise.

The outcome of which, Physic Gin, celebrates the 400-year-old history and current usage of the Botanic Garden which was founded for the teaching of herbal medicine.

Today, 25 of those botanicals mostly foraged in the garden, give Physic Gin its unique flavour – the recipe for which is kept under lock and key.

Professor Hiscock had to pass an exam to gain a personal licence to allow the sale of the spirit at the Botanic Garden and acknowledged he was probably the first holder of an alcoholic licence there since the 1640s.

Mr Nicholson, whose distillery also produces vodka, whiskey and absinthe, called the production of the gin a "true town and gown partnership".

He said: "The city's distillery is working closely with university departments, academics and experts to create superb spirits.

"We are of course highly privileged and can confidently promise a range of world class spirits, all bearing the revered Oxford brand."

Professor Hiscock added: "I'm looking forward to making spirits inspired by our historical collections and having some botanical fun along the way."

Professor Simon Hiscock with Tom Nicholson, the founder of The Oxford Artisan Distillery and a bottle of Physic Gin in the Botanic Gardens

InBrief

Plan for heat use

EXCESS heat from industrial sites will be used to warm buildings in and around Didcot Garden Town in radical new council plans to reduce its environmental impact.

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils will work together to redistribute heat from Didcot B Power Station via a 'district heat network' of underground pipes.

SODC leader John Cotton said: "We've asked the government for some funding to investigate it further and, if we get that, we will carry out the detailed design and viability work to see if a north Didcot combined heat and power scheme can become reality."

The government plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.

The first two preliminary feasibility studies have been completed and the council will seek government funding later in the year.

Join town tidy up

RESIDENTS are being asked to save the date for the next Thame Tidy Up which takes place on Saturday, March 17.

It will be a chance for the community to get together and clear the town of litter.

For more information or to sign up see the Thame Tidy page on social networking site Facebook.

Expressway: 'Give people their say'

AN Oxfordshire MEP has branded a lack of consultation on the potential £3.5bn Oxford to Cambridge expressway as 'illegal'.

In a scathing letter to the chief executive of Highways England, Keith Taylor, a Green MEP for the South East, said the lack of a potential public discussion of the proposed road breaches international environmental law.

In his letter, Mr Taylor, who opposes the project but supports a 'regionally important' electrified East-West rail link, claims the expressway contravenes the Aarhus Convention. As the UK is still part of the EU the convention means a 'meaningful public participation in major decisions which impact upon the environment' should be undertaken.

He said it is a "disgraceful and potentially illegal decision to try to push ahead with the environment-destructive project without first consulting the public".

"Wherever it is situated, it will have a significant impact on residents, communities, air quality and the environment," he added.

A Highways England spokesperson said: "Since November 2016, when three broad options for a proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway were published we've been taking forward more detailed work to help further design and analysis.

"We are committed to a full consultation process so people can help shape the plans."

Helping you to get fit and lose weight

DOCTORS and other health professionals combined forces with Oxfordshire County Council to launch a healthy lifestyle service aimed at reducing obesity in the county.

Achieve Healthy Weight Loss Oxfordshire offers free weight loss programmes, available at more than 50 locations across the county, for those wanting to shed those extra pounds.

Most service users will be referred by health professionals, although people can self-refer themselves providing they meet the criteria.

The service, operated by London-based provider Thrive Tribe, also provides a men's only 'MAN v FAT' football league weight loss initiative.

Councillor Hillary Hibbert-Biles, county council cabinet member for public health, said at the launch event last week that tackling obesity is key to preventing chronic disease and is one of the authority's health priorities.

NHS figures publicised last year revealed that one in three children in Oxfordshire are overweight or obese.

Cllr Hibbert-Biles added: "It is important that health professionals across the county know about the service and refer their patients to the new service where appropriate."

Details of the free-to-use services offered can be found at achieveoxfordshire.org.uk or by calling 01865 338119.

Councillor Hillary Hibbert-Biles, centre, with Hannah Pearce who heads up the service and MD of Thrive Tribe, Tim Roberts

News

Oxfordshire Guardian & The Oxford Paper charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Giving help to families when it's needed most

By George Welch

AFTER a huge response from our readers, the Oxfordshire Guardian and The Oxford Paper's Charity of the Year 2018 has been decided.

We can now reveal that our chosen charity for the year ahead is Helen & Douglas House.

The hospice cares for terminally ill children, young adults and their families.

The 'home from home' provides medical, emotional and practical support, helping families deal with the implications of living with a child who will die prematurely, so they can make the most of their time together.

As a charity it relies on donations to support these families and cannot do this without the generosity of the public, including you, our readers.

The partnership, which aims to highlight the loving work of carers and volunteers as well as the experiences of the children and families, comes after Helen & Douglas House, based just off Cowley Road, announced it was to close Douglas House which caters for 18-35 year olds amid a shortfall in funding.

Chief executive Clare Periton said: "We are so delighted to have been chosen as the Oxfordshire Guardian and The Oxford Paper's Charity of the Year.

"The money raised will make a real difference to local terminally ill children and their families, who we care for at Helen & Douglas House and at home.

"We were very sad to have to announce last week that Douglas House will be closing in August but we continue to need your help to raise essential funds to care for our patients with respite care, symptom management, end-of-life and bereavement support.

"We are operating in a challenging and competitive fundraising environment so we are so very grateful to the Oxfordshire Guardian and The Oxford Paper for giving us the opportunity to tell you more about the lives of our families, staff and volunteers as well as our events to raise money to help terminally ill children."

Karen Neville, group editor of the Oxfordshire Guardian and The Oxford Paper, said: "We were overwhelmed by the number of nominations we received for the charity for us to support this year.

"It really represents the diversity of organisations in Oxfordshire which are doing such good works.

"Helen & Douglas House has supported and helped so many families during the toughest times and its staff and volunteers do the most amazing job in very challenging circumstances.

"We are delighted to be giving them our support and hope the relationship with them can prove to be as worthwhile as last year's with Play2Give."

■ Other worthy charities shortlisted for the vote were:

Response Giving
Charity Santa
Dogs for Good
Guide Dogs for the Blind
Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary
Footsteps Foundation
Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire
Children Heard and Seen
SERV OBN Blood Bikes (Ox, Bucks, Berks, and N'hants)
Teenage Cancer Trust
Daybreak
Parkinson's UK Oxford
Sue Ryder (Henley).

We will be featuring as many of these charities as possible over the coming weeks.

Oxfordshire Guardian & THE OXFORD PAPER
Supporting
Helen & Douglas House
hospice care for children and young adults

Brief history: A world first

BASED in East Oxford, Helen & Douglas House started life in November 1982, when Helen House and the children's hospice movement was founded by Sister Frances Dominica.

As the world's first children's hospice, Helen House has gone on to inspire 49 others across the UK and around the world.

The inspiration for Helen House came from a little girl called Helen who was left with severe and irreversible brain damage after an emergency operation to remove a brain tumour.

Helen's parents took her home from hospital to care for her in her family surroundings. A friendship developed between Sister Frances and Helen's parents and on occasions Sister Frances looked after Helen for short periods to give her parents a break.

From this friendship the idea of a small homely hospice for children developed.

Helen House, for children, opened that year and was followed by Douglas House in 2004 as a hospice for young adults.

The 'challenging and highly competitive fundraising environment' has caused the charity to fall on harder times of late, and sadly from August, the closure of Douglas House.

This means it will revert to its original children-only model, reducing its age range from 0-35 to 0-18, impacting more than a third of patients.

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Geoff Norcott is quite simply one of the most in demand live comics and TV writers around. He can be seen headlining shows at The Comedy Store, supporting the likes of Katherine Ryan and Kevin Bridges – or even earning an operational services medal for his work gigging on the frontline in Afghanistan.
In addition to his live comedy work, Geoff is correspondent for BBC2's The Mash Report and will also be seen in the new series of Live At The Apollo. Geoff has also guested on BBC1's Question Time, BBC2's Daily Politics and BBC Radio 4's The Now Show. 2018 will see Geoff star in his own BBC Radio 4 special.
Norcott is an absolute tonic ***** The Telegraph
Compere
Danny Ward's observational humour is up-beat and well honed and his manic style both endearing and very funny. With a high energy set and brilliantly well observed material covering everything from the randomness of the Lidl, to how to get the 'London Look' the gags keep coming.
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"Tight on gags and tongue twisting set pieces" Huffington Post
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Dan Evans appeared on the comedy circuit in 1994, shortly afterwards leaving a promising career as one of East Anglia's leading office menials to go full time. Dan's TV and radio appearances include Brain Candy (BBC3 & 2), Comedy Zone and The Store Channel 5 and the Radio 2 Stand Up Show.
"Skilful and surreal" – The Scotsman
middle section
Two shorter spots in the middle section
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Darran Griffiths
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Management Disclaimer: Please note – that while we make every effort, shows can change without notice due to unforeseen circumstances and commitments of artists

Family stories: 'Ollie was a child having fun'

OLLIE had grade 2 brain damage resulting in multiple and complex conditions including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, scoliosis and visual impairment.

Ollie sadly died in 2014 aged seven at Helen House.

His mum Marie remembers how going to Helen House helped her son.

She said: "Ollie loved going to the sensory room at Helen House, with the lights and the music in there. It's the whole atmosphere. He also loved the art room and having his hands put in paint.

"I loved finding paint and glitter on his wheelchair when he got home, because to me it showed he is a child and he was having fun."

Nurse consultant Karen Brombley and the outreach nurses also provided support at home for Ollie who also had development delay, learning difficulties and was tube fed.

Marie said: "Karen Brombley has been a fantastic support at home. She made sure that not just Ollie was okay, but the whole family.

Ollie enjoyed the play therapy offered at Helen House

"She was a great help putting things in place; planning so that everyone knew what we wanted to happen for Ollie as a family. Normally you have to repeat everything; it's like a broken record. Everything was put in place. I could concentrate on Ollie.

"Ollie may no longer be with us physically, but a part of him will always be at Helen House.

"The love and support we received from Helen & Douglas House over the years and especially towards the end means so much to us as a family."

'The only place I'll leave Nathan'

NATHAN has Prader-Willi Syndrome, a severe life-shortening condition. He loves coming to Helen House for respite care.

His mum Jenny says: "It's the only place I will leave Nathan. The care he receives at Helen House, both physically and mentally, is brilliant."

Nathen enjoys a story with Jackie during a day at Helen House

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Sale

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News

Actress up for rising star award

By Eva Astreinidou

AN Oxford-born actress is in the running for the prestigious EE Rising Star award at the BAFTAs.

Florence Pugh always knew she wanted to perform and the hard work has now paid off.

In addition to the nomination, the 22-year-old has three films due to be released this year, one of which she stars alongside Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson.

But it was her performance as Katherine in Lady Macbeth that earned her critical acclaim and in turn, led to her being named a Screen International Star of Tomorrow and a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit last year.

Pugh made her film debut in The Falling, which helped garner her widespread attention and for which she received a nomination for Best Newcomer at the BFI London Film Festival Awards.

She has recently finished shooting Outlaw King with Chris Pine and Aaron Taylor-Johnson for release on Netflix and will soon begin filming on The Little Drummer Girl for the BBC.

She said she felt "truly honoured" to be nominated, adding: "The journey to get to this rewarding moment has been exhilarating, and so to feel recognition for doing something I love and the hard work many have put in feels very touching. It's a very proud moment indeed."

The rising star award, now in its 13th year, is the only BAFTA voted for by the British public.

Other nominees are Timothée Chalamet (Call Me By Your Name, Lady Bird), Daniel Kaluuya (Get Out, Black Panther), Josh O'Connor (The Riot Club, Florence Foster Jenkins) and Tessa Thompson (Selma, Westworld).

This year's nominees were selected by a panel of jurors including film broadcaster Edith Bowman, actress Georgina Campbell and casting director Lucy Bevan.

The winner will be announced on February 18 at the EE British Academy Film Awards ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall.

To vote for Florence, visit https://tinyurl.com/ycrkgydu

Florence Pugh is delighted to have been nominated. Picture: *EE BAFTA*

Caroline Lucas MP met Cheney School students to discuss green issues

School's green festival success

GREEN Party co-leader Caroline Lucas held an afternoon of inspirational sessions on a range of environmental issues to launch Cheney School's Green Festival.

The politician had lunch with the newly-formed Year 12 Environmental Student Team at the school in Headington before opening the event to pupils, staff and community visitors.

Audience members asked tricky questions on a variety of sustainability issues as the Brighton Pavilion MP spoke on the importance of lowering the legal voting age to 16.

Festival organisers from Rumble Museum thanked all those who took part and said: "The audience had a wide range of questions, from drug policy to nuclear energy and more – Caroline answered each one thoughtfully and with great clarity."

Oxfam, Oxford University and the Low Carbon Hub delivered workshops to raise awareness of environmental and conservation causes, such as climate change, single use plastics and solar energy.

InBrief

Recycling contract

CHERWELL District Council and South Northamptonshire Council have signed a joint two-year contract with a company to separate materials and then recycle them.

Cherwell say the deal with Leicester-based Casepak materials recycling facility will mean its recycling team will only travel a third of the distance it did and emissions will be reduced.

Healthier dog food

AN Oxford chemist has launched a "cold-pressed" dog food that could help owners understand the fat, fibre and calories man's best friend consumes with each meal.

Tribal TLC has a traffic light system on the pack similar to that used on grocery products.

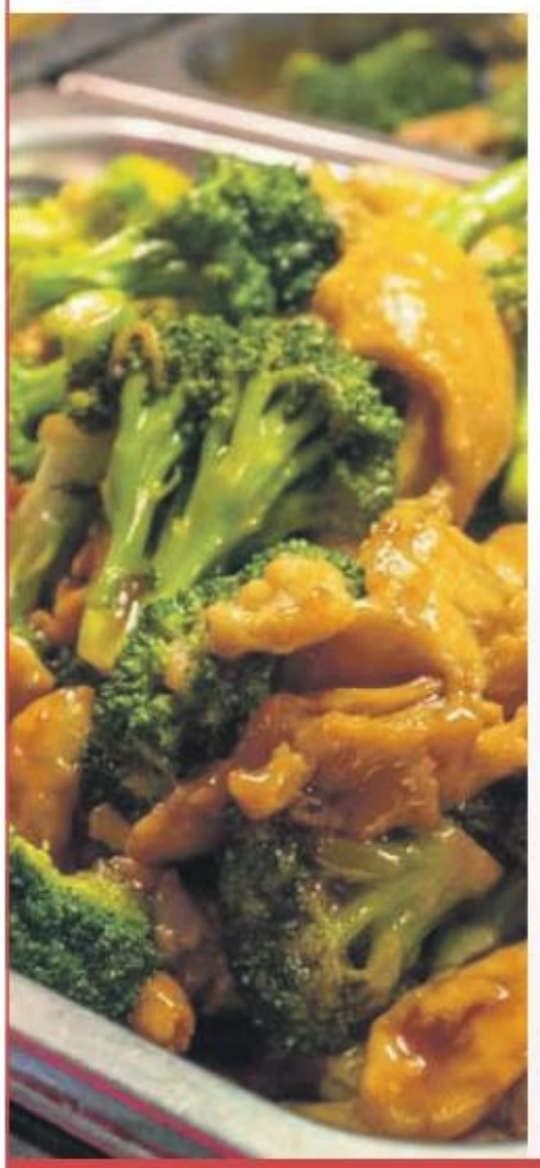
Fatima Maktari, based in Chinnor, said the ingredients are "cold pressed" at 95°C, the lowest heat possible, rather than baked to "keep the goodness locked in".

Say I do at mansion

A Grade II listed mansion in west Oxfordshire has added an intimate wedding ceremony space to its venue.

Stately home Eynsham Hall in Witney opened up the Duberley Room to bookings in January, with space for up to 40 guests, floor to ceiling windows and a champagne terrace.

OXY Oriental



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News

Quiz MP about rail services

WEST Oxfordshire residents will get their chance to share thoughts on rail services in the area at a meeting hosted by Witney's MP.

Robert Courts will chair the Ask the GWR event with representatives from Great Western Railway and Network Rail fielding questions from the public.

A government spokesperson said: "In light of the Government's recent decision to extend the GWR franchise and the resulting consultation that is currently under way, Robert knows that it is more important than ever that residents have a say on what they want to see from GWR going forward.

"That is why Robert wants to know what you think, and wants you to be able to speak to GWR directly."

The event is described as an "open and relaxed conversation" where attendees will be able to raise concerns and questions about the railways serving the area.

Passenger numbers have reportedly trebled in recent years at nearby Hanborough station with plans to build a new ticket office, waiting room, toilet and small shop on the site.

To register your interest for the event email annabel.pickup@parliament.uk including your full name and constituency address.

The event will run from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Charlbury Memorial Hall today.

Robert Courts MP, pictured at Tackley Rail Crossing in north Oxfordshire, will host the GWR and Network Rail event

More temps are filling vacancies in companies

OXFORD businesses are turning to short-term staff to plug the skills gap thanks to record-high employment in the county and the Brexit-effect.

Research by an Oxford-based recruitment agency shows a 20 per cent increase in the provision of temporary workers to employers in the period April to December from 2016 to 2017.

Allen Associates said finance, human resources, marketing and office administration roles have seen the sharpest rise in demand for temps over permanent staff.

Managing director Kate Allen said: "Record high employment means there are fewer candidates looking for permanent roles, which presents a serious challenge for employers with vacancies to be filled.

"This is particularly acute in areas such as Oxford, which has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

She added: "Then there is the Brexit effect. Uncertainty over Britain's withdrawal from the European Union in 2019 is seeing some organisations hold back on any long-term recruitment plans.

"Whilst permanent recruitment is still strong, employers are utilising the region's temporary workforce, which is extremely buoyant right now."

Water power working – slowly

By George Welch

A £3.2million hydroelectric power plant completed last August is finally generating electricity – but very slowly.

Sandford Hydro's three 22-tonne Archimedes screws started turning at the end of last year following an unusually dry autumn and were going for a total of eight days over Christmas.

However, the community-owned plant, which should produce 1,600 MWh of renewable electricity per year to power 450 homes, is still not turning nearly as much as the developers would like.

When the river levels in the Thames eventually rose high enough to push the huge metal screws around, the team had to temporarily pull the plug on its operation on December 27 – because it was flowing too high.

Low Carbon Hub is ready to go again but, according to the developer's operations director in a January update, this is problematic as the team requires 'express permission from the Environment Agency on a daily basis in order to operate'.

Adriano Figueiredo said this is because a telemetry link requested by the EA has not been implemented on their side.

The power plant is operational when there is a lock keeper on site at Sandford Lock but the link would give the EA river level data to help decide when it is safe for the plant to operate.

Mr Figueiredo added: "The outcome we are seeking is to get the hydro operating as much as possible and do so by working closely with the [EA] waterways team, who have been very helpful.

"Despite the frustration of not having the hydro fully operational, we believe that co-operation with the EA will benefit us all in the long term – we will be working with them for at least the next 40 years after all."

Mr Figueiredo also reassured the scheme's community investors that delays shouldn't have a negative impact on their financial returns (a dividend of a few per cent on their initial investment each year).

The plant is co-owned by more than 250 community investors, who all invested £250 per share to raise around £1.2m in total. Another £2m came from a Charity Bank loan.

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FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

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Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

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Student company's modern twist on classic play

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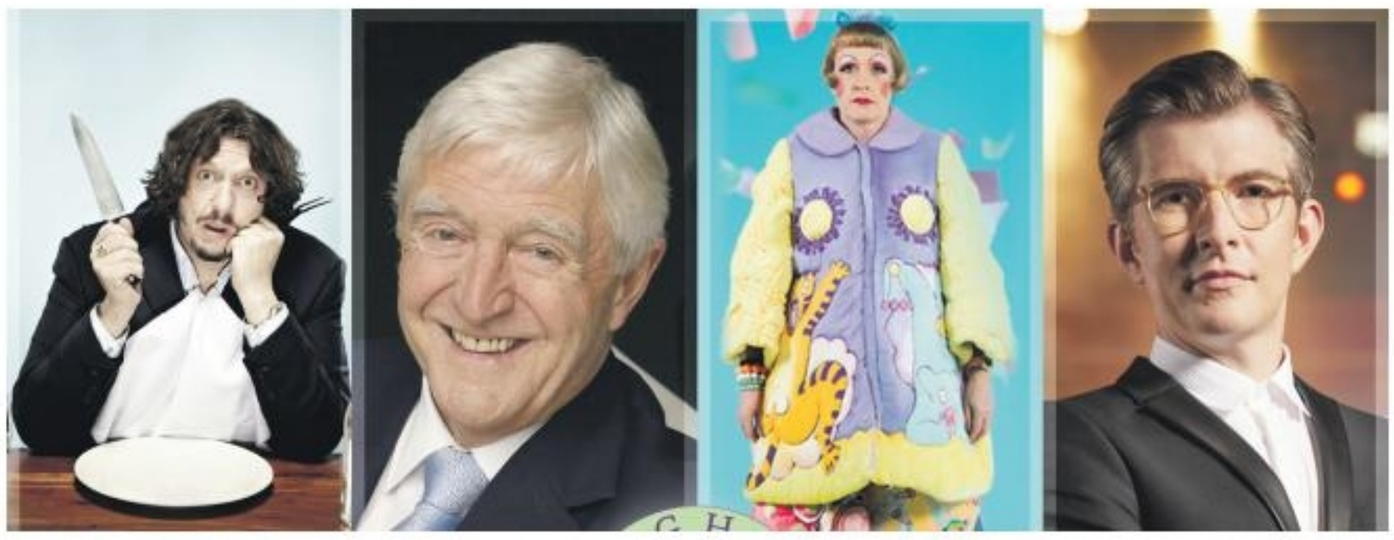
Out & About

Variety night for Afghanistan



Jay Rayner, Michael Parkinson, Grayson Perry and Gareth Malone will be entertaining for a good cause

By Samantha McGregor

JOIN big names including Grayson Perry, Sir Michael Parkinson, Gareth Malone and Jay Rayner to help raise the roof for children in Afghanistan.

They will take part in a special variety night at Oxford's New Theatre in a bid to raise enough money in one night to build a school in the war-ravaged country.

Promising to be an evening of entertainment and fundraising, the event takes place on Wednesday, February 28.

It will feature a discussion on art, identity and Afghan rugs with Grayson Perry; an interview with Sir Michael Parkinson on his career and love of cricket, while Jay Rayner will give his insights on dining nightmares. Gareth Malone will host the evening and also give a couple of performances himself.

Cash raised on the night will be donated to Afghan Connection, AC, which was set up by Dr Sarah Fane in 2002, following her time in Afghanistan as a doctor during the Soviet war and under the Taliban regime.

The charity aims to transform life opportunities for children in remote and underserved regions of Afghanistan through support for education projects.

Organisers hope to raise £121,500 to build six classrooms, toilet facilities and a security wall to help educate 192 children in Worsaj, a remote district in Takhar Province, North Afghanistan.

AC has built 46 schools for 75,000 children and renovated more than 70 other schools serving some 110,000 children.

Through its support, 1,000 teachers have received training and 2,700 children attend community-based education classes in areas where there are no schools.

For more information on AC's appeal go to justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/afghanconnection/WereofSchool

For tickets for the Variety Night drop into the New Theatre box office, call 0844 871 3020 or view atgtickets.com/oxford

A very try- ing team

JOHN Godber's award-winning rugby comedy Up 'n' Under, comes to the Oxford Playhouse later this month.

Brought in partnership with England Deaf Rugby Union, this production has been given Fingersmiths' spin.

Featuring a cast of deaf and hearing actors using British Sign Language and spoken English, this unique production promises an exciting visual and physical theatre to delight all audiences.

The Wheatsheaf Arms rugby team, the laughing stock of Castleford's Amateur Rugby League Seven-a-Side tournament, have never won a game, don't have seven players and spend more time in the pub than on the pitch.

With just five weeks to go, our hero coach Arthur has to convince them they can beat the mighty Cobbler's Arms, but first he has to work out how to communicate with them.

Headed by Tony Stoyles, Chairman of England Deaf Rugby Union and World Deaf Rugby, this first-time collaboration promotes the awareness of, and aims to develop deaf participation in, sport and arts across the country.

Tickets for Up 'n 'Under at Oxford Playhouse start at £10 and are available from the Ticket Office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

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Modern twist on a classic play for today's audience

By Samantha McGregor

A STUDENT company is gearing up to bring a classic play with a modern twist to the Oxford Playhouse.

University of Oxford student company Peripeteia Productions brings Henrik Ibsen's Hedda to the stage from Wednesday, February 21 until Saturday, February 24.

In this contemporary version of Ibsen's original, adapted by Critics' Circle Award-winner Lucy Kirkwood, Hedda Gabler is brought into a modern world full of crisis, Oxford academics and destabilising gender roles.

Hedda faces an empty marriage, an unfulfilling existence and a pregnancy she doesn't want.

Driven by an unthinking desire for power, Hedda attempts to manipulate those around her to devastating effect.

First performed in 1891, Ibsen's masterpiece shocked society for its fierce and unapologetic female lead.

Now, more than 125 years later, it continues to challenge, questioning how far society has come in creating a space for women.

It is performed as part of the Playhouse's A Vote of Her Own Season, celebrating 100 years of female suffrage.

With the famous suffragette Elizabeth Robins having played the lead role in the UK's first production of Hedda, the centenary of women's right to vote is the perfect time to both celebrate and scrutinise this play.

Peripeteia Productions promise a "compelling, challenging and powerful production".

With a talented young cast, a striking set made of light and a newly composed soundscape, this production will appeal to Ibsen lovers and modern drama fans alike.

Kirkwood, playwright and writer in residence at Clean Break theatre company, will be in conversation with Oxford academic and Ibsen specialist Kristen Shephard-Barr at the Playhouse, at 5pm on Friday, February 23. Tickets for this event are free with a ticket to Hedda.

Tickets start at £10 and are available by calling 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplayhouse.com

The cast in rehearsal for Hedda at the Oxford Playhouse later this month

Plenty to laugh at in Glee Club line-up

OXFORD's Glee Club has revealed its line-up for the coming months with some top names heading to the city.

Those already signed up include Britain's Got Talent finalist Daliso Chaponda, comedian and radio presenter John Robins, BBC Radio 4's Simon Evans, and the off-the-wall Rob Auton.

UK-based Malawian comedian Daliso, will perform on February 23, after wowing television audiences in the 11th series of ITV's Britain's Got Talent last year and was sent straight to the final after Amanda Holden pressed the golden buzzer.

While John Robins, who won the Edinburgh Comedy Award 2017 with The Darkness Of Robins, appears at the club on February 11 to reflect on love, loss and lamenting the fact he can't break up with himself.

On March 2, after looking back at the 1980s for his previous show, Patrick Monahan moves onto the next decade with Rewind Selector 90s, recalling the challenges he faced as an Irish/ Iranian immigrant.

And March 11, catch Simon Evans, currently a writer on Lee Mack's joke-heavy sitcom Not Going Out, Evans' and BBC Radio 4's Goes To Market.

Alongside the touring shows, the Cowley Road comedy club continues to host four-act line-ups every Saturday night.

Those set to grace the stage over the coming weeks include Angela Barnes on February 17 and Jayde Adams on March 3.

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Out & About

Freak out at Blenheim Palace

By Samantha McGregor

NILE Rodgers & Chic will open the four-day music spectacular at Blenheim Palace this summer.

They are the latest act to be unveiled and will headline Nocturne on Thursday, June 14.

For this concert Chic will be joined on the bill by two very special acts, which are still under-wraps.

The concert series returns to the Oxfordshire palace from June 14 to 17 and it has already been revealed that superstar singer/songwriter Gary Barlow will close the event on Sunday.

Gary's show, to include tunes from his back catalogue and a selection of Take That's greatest hits, is already sold-out.

Chic have enjoyed widespread mainstream success since their inception in the late 1970s thanks to a string of hits including Le Freak, Good Times and Everybody Dance'

Founder and frontman Rodgers has written for some of the biggest names in the music industry and produced and played on some of the best-selling albums of all time.

The Chic live show features all of the band's hits as well as songs from Rodgers' collaborations with the likes of Madonna, David Bowie, Daft Punk and Diana Ross.

Rodgers said: "We are really excited to be bringing some Chic 'magic' to the Nocturne concert series at Blenheim Palace this summer.

"Don't forget your dancing shoes and be prepared to 'Ahh...Freak Out'! See you there!"

Chic are is the second act to be announced for this summer's event and the remaining headliners will be announced in the coming weeks.

Tickets for Chic featuring Nile Rodgers start at £45 and went on sale last Friday.

Tickets, along with a limited number of VIP packages, which provide an exclusive opportunity to dine in the State Rooms of Blenheim Palace, are also available.

For more information go to nocturnelive.com

On stage

The truth is... X Factor winner's on tour

A decade after winning The X Factor Alexandra Burke has announced a UK tour with a stop in the city.

Called The Truth Is, this will be her first UK headline tour since 2010, and will take place in September.

She will perform songs from her new album of the same title as well as earlier hits including Hallelujah and Bad Boys.

Tickets have gone on sale for her show at the New Theatre Oxford on Saturday, September 15.

Tickets available from the New Theatre box office, George Street, by calling 0844 871 3020 or at atgtickets.com/oxford

Take in a little Juplicity in Henley

Comedian Phill Jupitus, of Never Mind the Buzzcocks and QI fame is stopping in the county for one night as part of his Juplicity show.

On Friday, March 2, the funny-man will perform at Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames, focussing on the chaos of his own life and the uncertain world that surrounds it.

For more information and tickets go to view offthekerb.co.uk/phill-jupitus/

Former X Factor winner Alexandra Burke is on Oxford in September

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Out&About Competition

WIN tickets to the Photography Show

Closing date: Thursday, March 1, 2018

The Photography Show, the event for everyone passionate about photography and moving image, returns to the NEC Birmingham from 17-20 March 2018 featuring the latest kit from big brands and a jam-packed speaker line-up.

Get hands-on with new products from Canon, Epson, Fujifilm, Hasselblad, Manfrotto, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Sigma and Sony to name a few, plus tripods, albums and accessories you didn't even know existed from over 220 exhibitors.

The Great Outdoors, a new stage for 2018, will feature live demos and expert advice on image capture outside, including dramatic landscapes, getting close to nature and special occasions whatever the weather. The enhanced Mobile & Social Stage will offer the opportunity to explore mobile imaging technologies and how social media can make (or break) a photographer, and the dedicated Video Stage will showcase cutting-edge products alongside technical and creative help on how to get the best out of moving image production skills.

Plus, catch exciting live action tutorials on the Live Stage, find out about intriguing photography projects and techniques in Behind the Lens, discover how drones can enhance your projects in the Drone Zone and hear thrilling insights into the journeys of world-renowned photographers at the Super Stage and more!

For more information, please visit: www.photographyshow.com/pr_1

Get your ticket

To guarantee that you'll be at the show in March, you can buy tickets to the show by visiting www.photography-show.com/pr_1. Tickets to Super Stage sessions, masterclasses and for the VIP package are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Win tickets!

The Basingstoke Observer has teamed up with The Photography Show to offer 5 lucky readers and their 'plus one' the chance to attend 2018's most exciting photography event, absolutely free!*

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Tickets are limited to one pair per winner and are valid for one day only. So what are you waiting? Send your entry today!

*Free tickets are for entry to the show plus a selection of theatre and stage programmes. Additional tickets must be purchased for the Masterclasses, Super Stage sessions and VIP upgrades.

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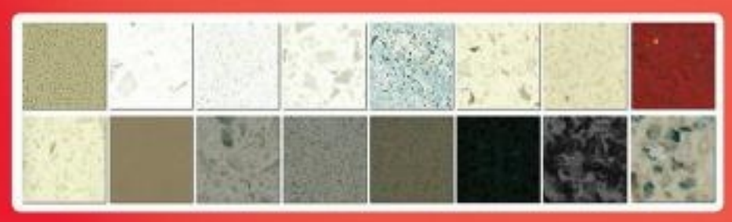

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1 S	2	3	4	5	6 U	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 T	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

AND CATCHES THE SUN

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. Which major London railway station is the southern terminus of the East Coast Main Line?
2. What H is a box used to store cigars, cigarettes or pipe tobacco?
3. Ellie and Izzi, and Giles and Mary, regularly appear on which Channel 4 TV programme?
4. Which Belfast jail, now a tourist attraction, is the only Victorian-era prison remaining in Northern Ireland?
5. Which lager was advertised with the slogan "Refreshes the parts other beers cannot reach"?
6. On which British TV soap opera, based in Brentwood, does music producer and entrepreneur Lauren Pope play herself?
7. Name the Northampton Saints and England rugby player married to Una Healy of the girl group The Saturdays.
8. Which station in Oxfordshire is the RAF's largest?
9. Baby, Now That I Found You was a UK number one hit in 1967 for which band?
10. Tartu, with a population of just over 100,000, is the second largest town or city in which European country?

NONAGRAM

T	I	M
O	D	E
O	R	E

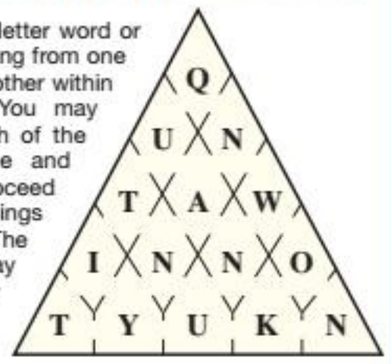
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
37 Good; 44 Very Good; 51 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

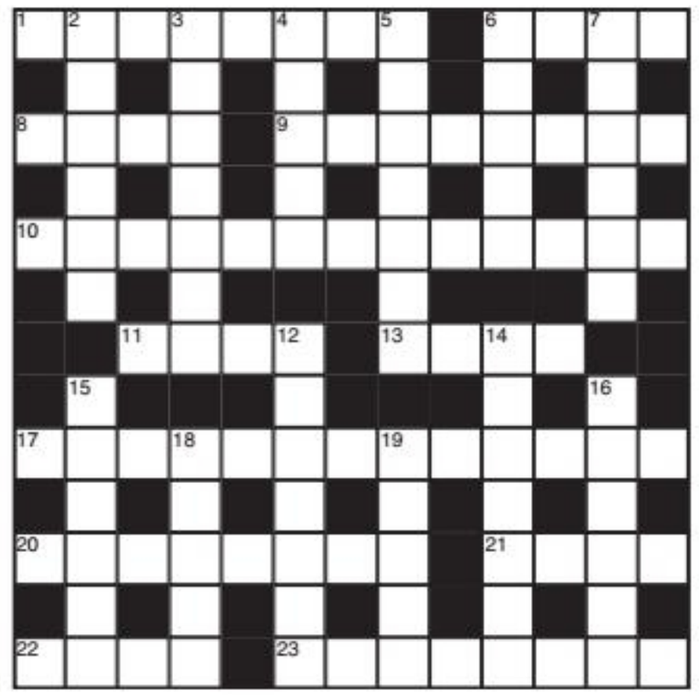


FIVE ALIVE

DL	ER	AM	UW	RN
RO	■	PA	■	EU
VU	PE	NP	EO	MR
GE	■	LG	■	SI
SR	TO	OY	LS	TE

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Footballer to put off going round goal (8)
6. Cryptic clue for a fish (4)
8. Most irate at having to enter prison (4)
9. Reaching for the heights with a pole perhaps (8)
10. But it is not used for cleaning up the joint (13)
11. Dishonest inclination (4)
13. Gather a salesman is outside (4)
17. Split divided the party (6,7)
20. Dismissed workers temporarily kept at a distance (5,3)
21. Lied about being out of a job (4)
22. Might one worry over this sort of work? (4)
23. Somehow I lost Ray – he's on his own (8)

DOWN

2. Navigational instrument without its top is still in existence (6)
3. Could hurtful words give you such pain? (7)
4. Wicked person dwelt in retirement (5)
5. In the game this might be achieved by milkman to the queen (7)
6. Reformed slut accepts nothing for a water lily (5)
7. Unable to hesitate at this pace? (6)
12. Monotonous outside broadcast (7)
14. Fix with a soft tip (7)
15. Twin wheel (6)
16. Linesman hoping for a catch (6)
18. Fish tutor prepared (5)
19. Not keen on a student's organs (5)

SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

3	4			1	8	6		
		5			6		1	
			7	5			8	3
2			3	4		8		
		6	9		1			
4	9		6	8	5	2		
1				6				
	6						4	
		8	1			3	6	

	7		4				8	
	3			1				
4	9		3					5
	5	8			7			
1			9			2		
	4	2						8
						4		
5					6		2	

EQUALISER

7 8
5 ◯ 5 ◯ 7
5 5
15 ◯ 5 ◯ 1
4 1

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Overhanging shelter (6)
4. Portuguese islands (6)
8. Baby's toy (6)
10. Joined (6)
11. Oak fruit (5)
12. Interchange (6)
14. Hebrew judge (6)
16. ---- Walcott, England footballer (4)
17. Merit (4)
19. Poker stake (4)
22. Jab (4)
26. Amalgamation (6)
27. London borough (6)
28. Measured (5)
29. Ambassador (6)
30. Sty (6)
31. Fully developed (6)
32. Drowsy (6)

DOWN

1. Stroke tenderly (6)
2. Fool (6)
3. Royal residence (6)
5. Garden flower (6)
6. Decayed (6)
7. Short railway line (6)
9. Resound (4)
10. Impel (4)
13. Artefact (5)
15. Slobber (5)
18. Badge (6)
19. Correctly (6)
20. Examiner (6)
21. American lake (4)
22. Surreptitious look (4)
23. Having spokes (6)
24. Small hollow (6)
25. Business acting on behalf of others (6)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 King's Cross Station; 2 Humidor; 3 Gogglebox; 4 Crumlin Road Jail (HMP Belfast); 5 Heineken; 6 The Only Way is Essex; 7 Ben Foden; 8 RAF Brize Norton; 9 The Foundations; 10 Estonia.

CROSS CODE

1 S	2 X	3 F	4 P	5 N	6 U	7 O	8 Y	9 C	10 B	11 H	12 V	13 I
14 T	15 A	16 Z	17 M	18 W	19 O	20 E	21 G	22 R	23 D	24 K	25 L	26 J

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:

Across – 1 Defender; 6 Luce; 8 Stir; 9 Vaulting; 10 Knuckleduster; 11 Bent; 13 Heap; 17 Parted company; 20 Stood off; 21 Idle; 22 Fret; 23 Solitary. **Down** – 2 Extant; 3 Earache; 4 Devil; 5 Rounder; 6 Lotus; 7 Canter; 12 Tedious; 14 Appoint; 15 Castor; 16 Angler; 18 Trout; 19 Offal.

QUICK CROSSWORD:

Across – 1 Canopy; 4 Azores; 8 Rattle; 10 United; 11 Acorn; 12 Switch; 14 Gideon; 16 Theo; 17 Earn; 19 Ante; 22 Prod; 26 Merger; 27 Ealing; 28 Sized; 29 Legate; 30 Pigpen; 31 Mature; 32 Sleepy. **Down** – 1 Careass; 2 Nitwit; 3 Palace; 5 Zinnia; 6 Rotten; 7 Siding; 9 Echo; 10 Urge; 13 Thing; 15 Drool; 18 Emblem; 19 Aught; 20 Tester; 21 Erie; 22 Peep; 23 Radial; 24 Dimple; 25 Agency.

MAGIC SQUARE:

cast; ache; shun; tend.			

EASY SUDOKU

3	4	9	2	1	8	6	7	5
7	8	5	4	3	6	9	1	2
6	1	2	7	5	9	4	8	3
2	5	1	3	4	7	8	9	6
8	3	6	9	2	1	7	5	4
4	9	7	6	8	5	2	3	1
1	7	4	8	6	3	5	2	9
9	6	3	5	7	2	1	4	8
5	2	8	1	9	4	3	6	7

HARD SUDOKU

2	7	5	4	6	9	3	8	1
8	3	6	7	1	5	9	4	2
4	9	1	3	2	8	6	7	5
9	5	8	2	3	7	1	6	4
1	6	3	9	8	4	2	5	7
7	2	4	6	5	1	8	3	9
6	4	2	1	7	3	5	9	8
3	8	7	5	9	2	4	1	6
5	1	9	8	4	6	7	2	3

WORD PYRAMID: Unknown quantity.

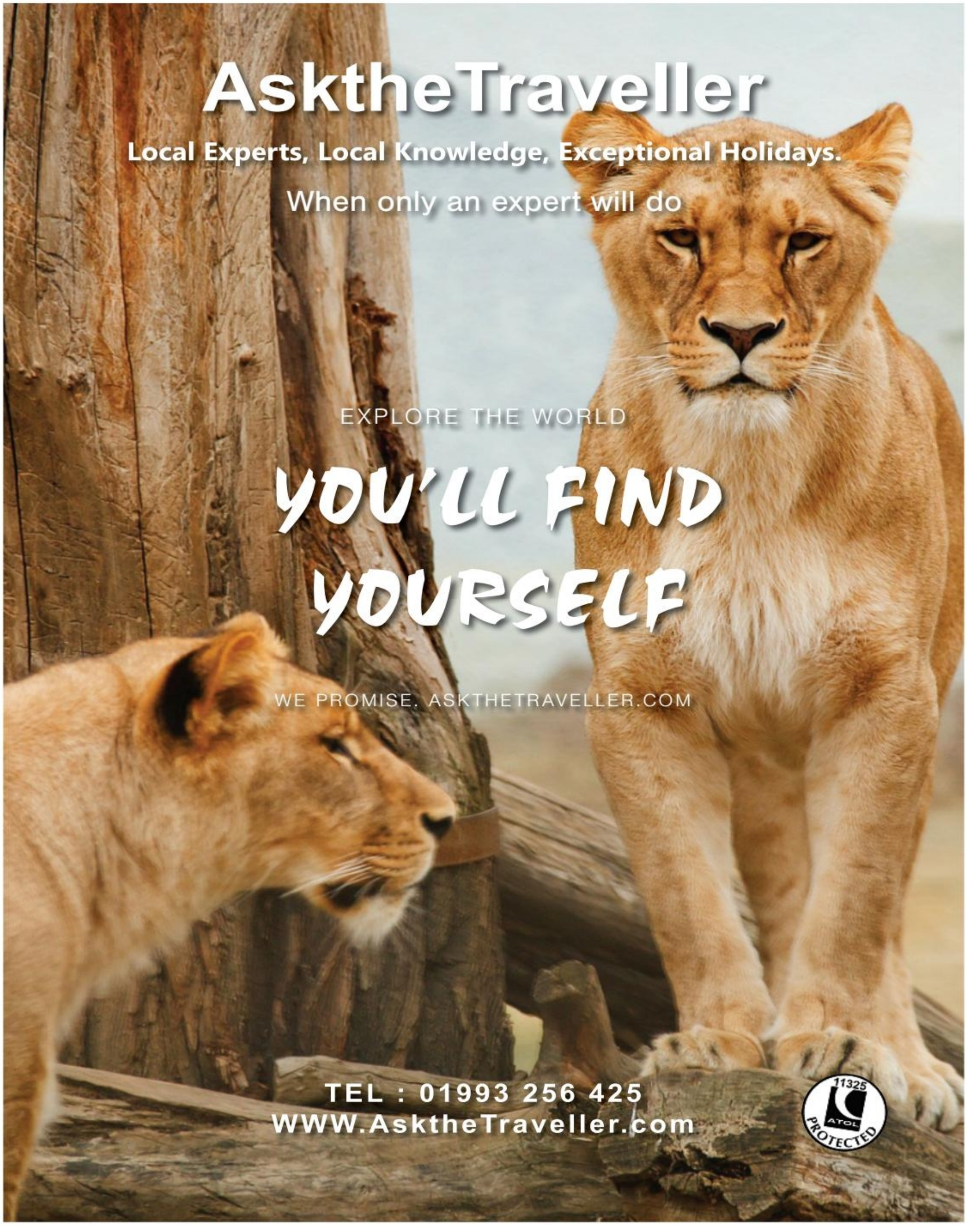
EQUALISER: Clockwise from top left – add; subtract; multiply; divide. Total: 3.

FIVE ALIVE:

(1) Across – Drawn; Upper; Style.
Down – Drugs; Apply; Nurse.
(2) Across – Lemur; Venom; Roost.
Down – Lover; Mango; Remit.

NONAGRAM:

deem; deer; deme; demerit; demit; demo; demote; dem; deter; diet; dieter; dime; dimer; dimeter; dire; dirt; doer; doit; dome; doom; doomier; door; dorm; dote; doter; dree; droit; edit; editor; elder; emoted; erode; idem; meed; merited; meted; METEOROID; mited; mitred; mode; moldore; mood; moodier; mooed; moored; mooted; motored; odometer; rede; redo; reed; refed; ride; rioted; rode; rodeo; rood; roomed; rooted; teed; tiredo; temed; tide; ted; tered; timed; tired; toed; toreid; treed; tried; triode; trod.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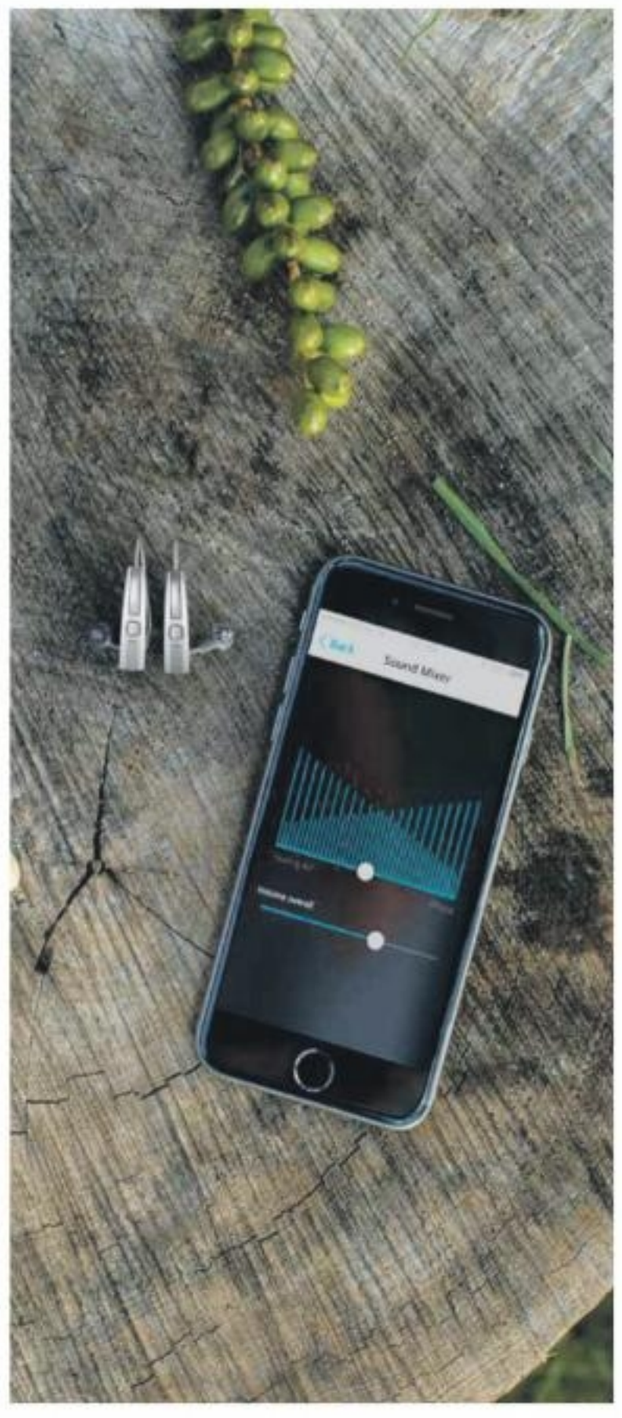

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Saturday February 10th

TOP TV

BBC 1

10.00am Winter Olympics

BBC 2

10.00pm The Young Victoria

ITV

10.50pm Lethal Weapon 2

Channel 4

11.35pm Ted

Channel 5

2.00pm The A-Team

MORNING

10 February 2018
10.00am Winter Olympics

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am Mary Berry Everyday

8.30am Be Cool, Scooby-Doo
9.05am Wishfart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.20am Dancing on Ice

7.10am King of Queens
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9.00am Frasier
10.30am The Big Bang Theory
11.00am The Big Bang Theory
11.30am The Big Bang Theory

9.35am Digby Dragon
9.55am Peppa Pig
10.00am Peppa Pig
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.40am Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud
11.05am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Winter Olympics
4.30pm Final Score
5.25pm BBC News
5.35pm Regional News and Weather
5.45pm And They're Off... for Sport Relief

12.00pm Winter Olympics
1.15pm Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure
2.15pm Escape to the Country
3.00pm Italy's Invisible Cities
4.00pm Nigel Slater's Middle East: Turkey
5.00pm Dragons' Den

1.15pm ITV News London
1.20pm ITV News
1.30pm 6 Nations Live: Ireland v Italy
4.20pm 6 Nations Live: England v Wales

12.00pm The Simpsons
12.30pm The Simpsons
1.00pm The Simpsons
1.30pm Come Dine with Me
2.30pm Coast v Country
3.30pm A Place in the Sun
4.30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
5.35pm The Supervet

12.00pm Police Interceptors
1.00pm The A-Team
2.00pm The A-Team
3.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
4.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5.00pm Rich House, Poor House

EVENING

6.25pm Pointless
7.15pm All Together Now
8.20pm Casualty
9.10pm BBC News
9.30pm Hard Sun
10.30pm Match of the Day
11.50pm Winter Olympics
2.00am Winter Olympics
6.00am Breakfast

6.00pm Hugh's Wild West
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm Dad's Army
8.30pm Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs
9.00pm Charles I's Treasures Reunited
10.00pm The Young Victoria
11.40pm Love is All You Need
1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.35am BBC News
6.00am Winter Olympics

7.00pm Take Me Out
8.15pm The Voice UK
9.45pm Through the Keyhole
10.35pm ITV News
10.50pm Lethal Weapon 2
1.00am You've Been Framed!
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sooty
6.10am Bottom Knocker Street
6.20am Bottom Knocker Street
6.35am Dino Dana
6.50am Super 4

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Great Canal Journeys
8.00pm Village of the Year Final with Penelope Keith
9.00pm Die Hard 4.0
11.35pm Ted
1.25am The Last Leg
2.20am Hollyoaks Omnibus
4.25am Coast v Country
5.20am Location, Location, Location
6.15am King of Queens
6.40am King of Queens

6.00pm The Wonderful World of Puppies
7.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
8.00pm The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Football on 5
10.00pm Football on 5
10.30pm The Silence of the Lambs
12.40am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am Cowboy Builders
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Great Scientists

Sunday February 11th

TOP TV

BBC 1

9.00pm McMafia

BBC 2

9.00pm Dragons' Den

ITV

8.00pm Endeavour

Channel 4

9.00pm Spy

Channel 5

4.30pm Sleepless in Seattle

MORNING

7.35am Match of the Day
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Sunday Politics

9.15am Winter Olympics

9.05am Wishfart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am River Monsters
10.00am Peston on Sunday
11.00am The Martin Lewis Money Show
11.25am The Voice UK

7.05am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Frasier
9.30am Sunday Brunch

9.10am Shimmer and Shine
9.30am Digby Dragon
9.45am Peppa Pig
9.50am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.25am Football on 5
11.45am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.15pm BBC News
12.30pm Winter Olympics
2.30pm Six Nations Rugby Union
5.00pm Songs of Praise
5.35pm Celebrity Mastermind

12.30pm Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
2.00pm Food and Drink
2.30pm Back in Time for Tea
3.30pm The Crane Gang
4.30pm Winter Olympics

12.55pm ITV News
1.00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury
1.30pm What Would Your Kid Do?
2.30pm The Cruise
3.00pm Britain's Brightest Family
3.30pm Tipping Point
4.30pm ITV News London
4.40pm ITV News
5.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.35pm The Simpsons
2.05pm The Simpsons
2.35pm School of Rock
4.45pm Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

12.45pm Over Her Dead Body
2.30pm What to Expect When You're Expecting
4.25pm 5 News Weekend
4.30pm Sleepless in Seattle
5.30pm 5 News
5.35pm Sleepless in Seattle

EVENING

6.05pm BBC News
6.20pm Regional News and Weather
6.30pm Countryfile
7.30pm Still Open All Hours
8.00pm Call the Midwife
9.00pm McMafia
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.35pm The Women's Football Show
12.10am Winter Olympics
3.30am Winter Olympics
6.00am Breakfast

6.00pm New York: America's Busiest City
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness
9.00pm Dragons' Den
10.00pm The Mash Report
10.30pm Live at the Apollo
11.15pm Cleverman
12.10am Women's Six Nations Highlights
12.40am The Deep
2.05am Question Time
3.05am Holby City
4.05am Weather for the Week Ahead

6.00pm Dancing on Ice
8.00pm Endeavour
10.00pm ITV News
10.10pm Peston on Sunday
11.05pm 6 Nations Highlights
12.00am Next of Kin
12.50am Next of Kin
1.35am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twisters
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Good Morning Britain

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Posh Pawn
8.00pm Lost Cities of the Maya
9.00pm Spy
11.25pm Friends with Benefits
1.25am The World's Most Expensive Food
2.20am The Supervet
3.15am Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
4.10am Gillette World Sport
4.35am KOTV Boxing Weekly
5.05am Location, Location, Location
6.00am Countdown
6.45am 3rd Rock from the Sun

6.30pm Along Came Polly
8.00pm Rom-Com LOL Special
9.00pm Britain's Favourite Rom-Com
11.55pm There's Something About Mary
2.10am Super Casino
4.00am Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Great Scientists
5.35am Wildlife SOS
6.00am Puffin Rock
6.10am Poppy Cat
6.20am Simon
6.25am Bob the Builder
6.35am Fireman Sam

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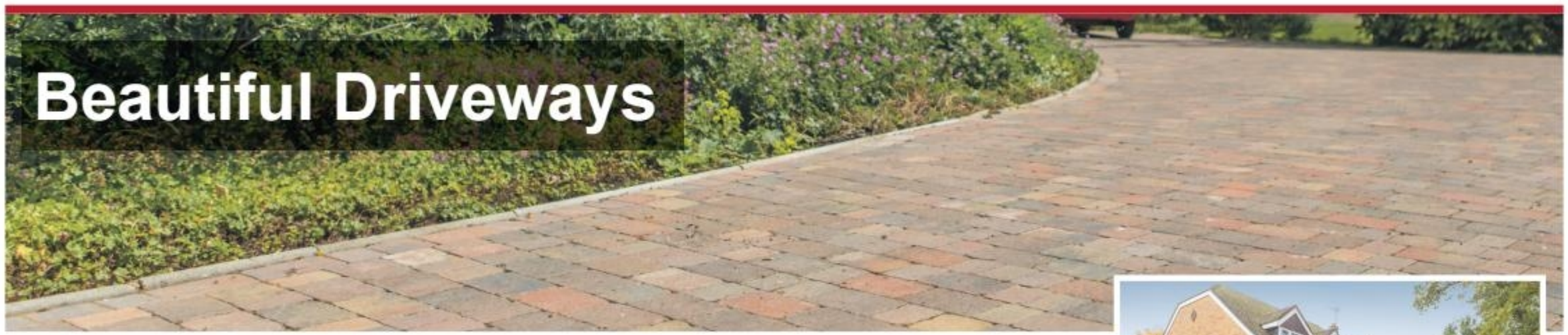

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Monday February 12th

TOP TV

BBC 1

7.00pm The One Show

BBC 2

8.00pm Only Connect

ITV

7.00pm Emmerdale

Channel 4

8.30pm Food Unwrapped

Channel 5

9.00pm The X Files

MORNING

9.15am Winter Olympics

9.15am Animal Park Easter Special
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under
11.45am Heir Hunters

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am GPs: Behind Closed Doors

AFTERNOON

1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm The Coroner
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Get Away for Winter
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm Winter Olympics

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Couples Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.20pm Ncis: Conspiracy to Murder
3.20pm The Deadly Twin
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Inside Out
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Panorama
9.00pm Julius Caesar Revealed
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Have I Got Old News for You
11.15pm The Graham Norton Show
12.05am Winter Olympics
4.00am Winter Olympics
6.00am Breakfast

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great American Railroad Journeys
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm University Challenge
9.00pm Collateral
10.00pm Two Doors Down
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Odyssey
11.55pm Odyssey
12.40am Countryfile Winter Special
1.35am Food: Truth or Scare
2.20am Hugh's Wild West

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Trauma
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm James Bulger: A Mother's Story
11.45pm Car Crash Britain Caught on Camera
12.35am Jackpot247
3.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Dispatches
8.30pm Food Unwrapped
9.00pm The World's Most Luxurious Airline
10.00pm First Dates Hotel
11.05pm Derry Girls
11.40pm Hunted
12.40am It's a Weird World
1.35am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
2.25am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
8.00pm Police Interceptors
9.00pm The X Files
10.00pm Neighbours: Hit and Run
11.05pm Traffic Cops
12.00am When Kids Kill
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Great Scientists

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Tuesday February 13th

BBC 1

9.00pm Shetland

TOP TV

MORNING

9.15am Winter Olympics

AFTERNOON

1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm The Coroner
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Get Away for Winter
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm Holby City
9.00pm Shetland
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Sex, Drugs and Murder: A Year in the Red Light Zone
11.30pm Drugs Map of Britain
12.05am Winter Olympics
3.00am Winter Olympics
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

9.00pm Flatpack Empire

MORNING

9.15am Animal Park Easter Special
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under
11.45am Heir Hunters

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm Winter Olympics

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great American Railroad Journeys
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm Back in Time for Tea
9.00pm Flatpack Empire
10.00pm Inside No 9
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Mum
11.45pm Mum
12.15am Mum
12.45am The Super League Show
1.30am Charles I's Treasures Reunited
2.30am Monty Don's Paradise Gardens

ITV

9.00pm Trauma

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Save Money: Good Food
8.00pm What Would Your Kid Do?
9.00pm Trauma
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm Girlfriends
11.45pm Sunday Night at the Palladium
12.35am Jackpot247
3.00am Loose Women
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show

Channel 4

9.00pm 24 Hours in A and E

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Couples Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Joe Wicks: The Body Coach
9.00pm 24 Hours in A and E
10.00pm The Sex Robots are Coming
11.05pm Before We Die
12.20am My Millionaire Migrant Boss
1.15am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
2.05am The Supervet
3.00am Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
3.55am The Question Jury
4.50am Location, Location, Location

Channel 5

10.00pm Ben Fogle: Return to the Wild

MORNING

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am GPs: Behind Closed Doors

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm Ncis: Conspiracy to Murder
3.15pm Fatal Fiancv©
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
7.55pm 5select Exclusive Preview
8.00pm The QE2: Cruise Ship, Warship, Money Pit
9.00pm Elizabeth: Our Queen
10.00pm Ben Fogle: Return to the Wild
11.05pm Paddington Station 24/7
12.05am Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railway Journeys
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors

Wednesday February 14th

BBC 1

8.00pm The Sheriffs are Coming

TOP TV

MORNING

9.15am Winter Olympics

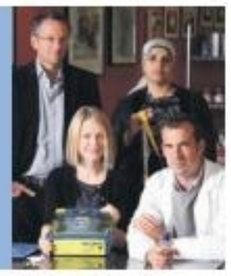
AFTERNOON

1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm The Coroner
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Get Away for Winter
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
8.00pm The Sheriffs are Coming
9.00pm Earth's Natural Wonders
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm A Question of Sport
11.15pm Live at the Apollo
12.00am Winter Olympics
4.30am Winter Olympics
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2



8.30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor

MORNING

9.15am Animal Park Easter Special
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Wanted Down Under
11.45am Heir Hunters

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm Winter Olympics

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Great American Railroad Journeys
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good
8.30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
9.00pm Generation Gifted
10.00pm Mock the Week
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Flatpack Empire
12.15am House of Saud: A Family at War
1.15am Surgeons: At the Edge of Life

ITV

5.00pm The Chase

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.25pm Party Political Broadcast
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Britain's Brightest Family
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Trauma
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm UEFA Champions League Highlights
11.45pm Car Crash Britain Caught on Camera

Channel 4

4.00pm A New Life in the Sun

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.35am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Couples Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it
9.00pm The ¬£1 Houses: Britain's Cheapest Street
10.00pm Damned
10.35pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
11.35pm 24 Hours in A and E
12.30am Pokerstars Championship Cash Challenge
1.25am Water for Elephants
3.25am Dispatches

Channel 5

12.15pm Cowboy Builders

MORNING

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am GPs: Behind Closed Doors

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm Cowboy Builders
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm Ncis: Conspiracy to Murder
3.15pm Deadly Attraction
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Police Interceptors
8.00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
9.00pm Peyton and Polizzi's Restaurant Rescue
10.00pm Sleepless in Seattle
12.05am Julie Walters: By Her Friends
1.05am Super Casino
3.10am Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
4.00am The Railways That Built Britain, with Chris Tarrant
4.45am House Doctor

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Professional Toastmaster

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Advertorial

Enjoy 'Star Car' family fun this half term at the British Motor Museum!

The British Motor Museum is inviting visitors to take part in two weeks of 'Star Car' interactive fun from 10 - 25 February 2018. There will be the opportunity to meet Parker or Lady Penelope on a family tour and discover the stories behind the Museum's famous cars from TV & film, plus get creative with 'Star Car' crafts and complete the 'Star Car Trail'.

Star Car Crafts offer a range of creative activities and take place daily. Children can make a 'Star Car,' to take home - choose from templates of FAB1, Tomb Raider or Shaun the Sheep's Land Rover. Lovers of Lego® can make a 'Star Car' out of Lego which will be captured on camera and added to the 'Star Car Wall of Fame'. Those with artistic flair can draw a car for their favourite 'star' to be displayed, or to take home. Large Lego Bricks are also available every day for under 5's to enjoy along with a self-guided Star Car Trail that will enable visitors of all ages to explore the 'Star Cars' as a family.

Parker & Penelope Tours will take place every day at 11.45am and 1.30pm, when costumed guides Parker or Lady Penelope will take visitors on a 'Star Car' family tour of the Museum.

Emma Rawlinson, Life Long Learning Officer at the British Motor Museum stated "We have an exciting two weeks of interactive family friendly activities planned with plenty to keep everyone entertained, whatever the weather!"

All half term family activities are included in the Museum entry. Adults £14, Children £9 (5-16 years) under 5's free, Concessions £12 & Family £39 (2 adults & up to 3 children). Buy 1 day and get 12 months free if you Gift Aid your entrance.

To find out more information please visit the website at www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/events/family-activities or call 01926 641188.

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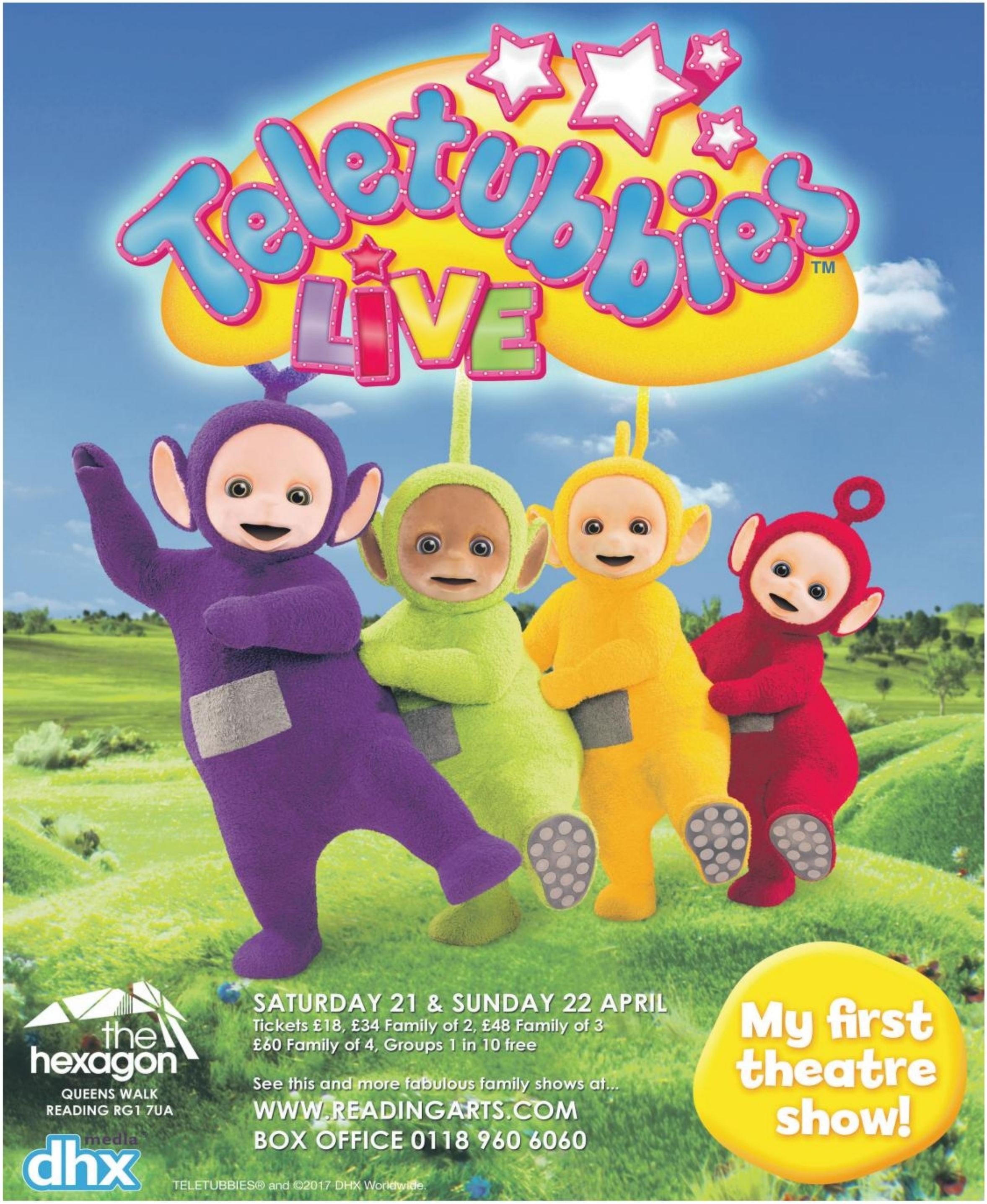
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The advertised price is correct as of 4 September 2017 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on all dates shown.

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Why is Oxford the UK's least affordable City?

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

On average a UK City home costs 7 times annual average income. Not since 2007 has property been less affordable when the average was 7.5 times annual average income.

Contrary to popular belief London is not the least affordable City when property price is compared to average income, that dubious accolade goes to Oxford, out on its own at 11.5 times average earnings. Next comes our other world-famous City of learning Cambridge at 10.5 times earnings.

Each of London, Oxford and Cambridge have average house prices above £400,000 with Oxford average price being £422,055 over the last 12 months.

Whilst London property has stagnated during 2017, the Capital has also experienced the strongest earnings growth, rising out of the credit crunch malaise faster and stronger than Cities such as Oxford, Cambridge and Bath. Cities popular with commuters to London such as Brighton and Winchester have also experienced property price inflation with people benefitting from London earnings demanding property and widening the gap for people who live and work locally.

Despite fewer completed sales, demand for Oxford homes has remained strong. In north Oxford, Kidlington property saw increases as high as 25% during 2015 and 2016 due to the new Oxford Parkway station making the village a commuting hotspot, and whilst price growth stagnated in 2017, Kidlington remains a buoyant local market.

So why is Oxford so expensive? First and foremost, Oxford offers a superb built environment combining historic and modern architecture and vibrant sports and leisure attractions. It is a City that attracts 30,000 students annually many of whom live in private rented properties, and is a world recognised seat of learning and centre for the knowledge industries. It is strategically located in the Centre of England offering easy access North, South, East and West, and is surrounded by beautiful Cotswold countryside. Who wouldn't want to live in Oxford?

But, the City and County Councils have failed to enable and encourage sufficient new build homes, resulting in a supply constrained property market. In 2017, less than 1% of the homes sold in Oxford were new build. That under-supply of new affordable homes suitable for first-time buyers and/or to down-sizing retired residents, is causing there to be a chronic under-supply of 2 and 3 bedroom homes. Whilst Government policy aimed at helping first time buyers is positive, in Oxford first time buyers are not limited by stamp duty, but rather the size of deposit required by mortgage lenders.

For people who own an Oxford home the strength in values is an important part of their wealth planning, for the city as a whole it is the biggest strategic risk that the City faces. At present it is hard to see how local or national public policy will address this crisis.

	City	Price to earnings multiple
Least affordable places	Oxford	11.5
	Cambridge	10.5
	London	10.2
	Brighton & Hove	10.2
	Bath	10.1
	Winchester	10.0
	Exeter	9.3
	Truro	9.3
	Canterbury	8.9
	Southampton	8.9
Most affordable places	Dundee	5.4
	Swansea	5.4
	Sunderland	5.1
	Lisburn	5.1
	Belfast	5.1
	Durham	5.0
	Lancaster	4.8
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WANTAGE Well proportioned modern home set over three floors including; open plan kitchen/living/dining room, three double bedrooms, family bathroom and en-suite. Unfurnished. Garage & Allocated Parking. EPC Rating B

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Suzuki Ignis 1.2 SHVS SZ5

Ignis lights up the small supermini market

By **Tony Yates**

THE Supermini market has been growing at an astonishing rate for the last few years – and as we move into 2018, it's getting even hotter – mainly thanks to everybody talking about the demise of diesel engines and why we should all buy smaller cars if we want to save the planet.

So, what's the reason for this sudden hype? Well, buyers are now looking for the smaller cars because we are told they are cheaper to run, and in many cases cheaper to buy. And that's the nuts and bolts of it basically. But, what I will say is nothing in life is ever simple.

Actually, because we are talking about value for money motoring, I want to introduce you to the rather good-looking Suzuki Ignis - and why after only a few days of driving it, I'm totally convinced that maybe it's something pretty special.

Power & efficiency

The Ignis is powered by a four-cylinder Dualjet petrol engine that produces 90ps at 6000rpm and 120Nm at 4400rpm. 0 to 62 mph is dealt with in 11.5 seconds – moving onto a top speed of around103 mph.

The official fuel economy figures from Suzuki are; 60.1 mpg (combined) with a CO2 rating of 106 g/km - although the best I could get was around 50mpg, but then I was not really trying to get near what Suzuki had said was possible.

On the road

I like the way the little Ignis handles – but I do feel the suspension is a little bouncy - saying that, when the road gets twisty – it is more than capable of holding its own thanks to a good balance of chassis and suspension. When you think about it, it actually performs rather well and I was really impressed by this. Of course, this means it gives you a lot of confidence into the corners, which in turn makes it quite the drive. Also, when the road gets twisty – you have that wonderful Suzuki ALLGRIP 4-wheel drive system keeping you formally in check. Yes, you heard that correctly, a 4-wheel drive system that does a very nice job indeed of keeping you glued to the tarmac with no muddy fields involved whatsoever.

Design & technology

My test car was fitted with decent seating and clever interior accents, which lifts even the most boring of interiors – not that the inside is boring, but you do sense that the Ignis was set out to be more practical than luxurious. Saying that it's quite plush and all the dials and controls are easy to use. But, and its a small one, some of the plastics on the inside could have been better quality.

Space – well let's just say for a small car it has bags of it - along with a decent driving position and plenty of room in the back for most adults to sit in reasonable comfort. The boot is also pretty good, with max luggage capacity coming in around 1,086 litres.

Some of the standard features fitted to my test vehicle included; LED daytime running lights, LED projector head-lamps, ALLGRIP 4-wheel drive system, DAB digital radio with 4 speakers, USB, Bluetooth and iPod, driver and passenger front, side and curtain airbags, ABS with EBD, Electronic Stability Program, Hill Hold Control and Hill Descent, automatic headlights, auto-matic air conditioning, 16" alloy wheels, cruise control with speed limiter and rear parking camera.

To sum up

Suzuki has done a fantastic job here - and I expect the Ignis to do well as a feature-packed supermini that doesn't cost the earth.

Standard price (on-the-road) £15,499

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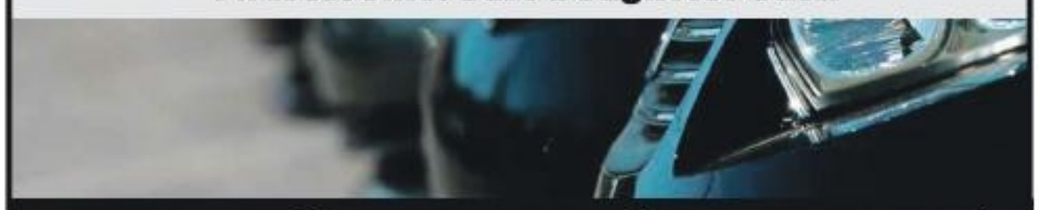

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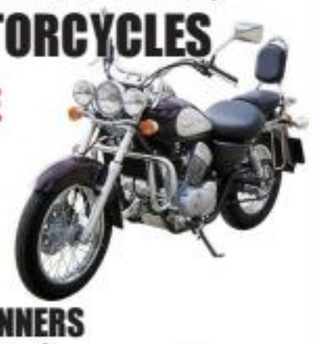

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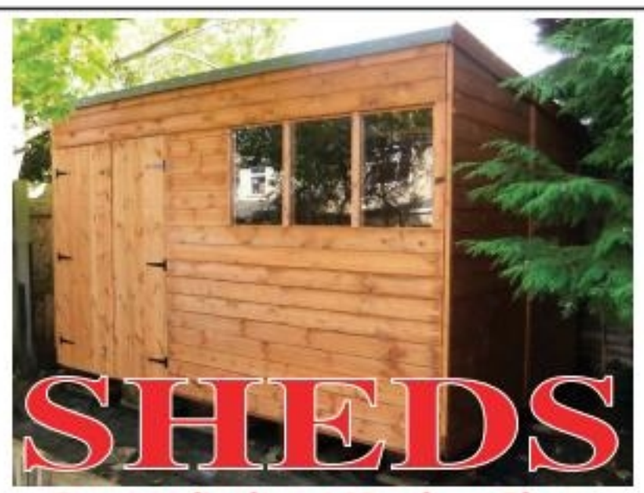

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Smith encouraged by testing

By George Welch

MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith says he is 'pleased' with the progress KTM Red Bull made over the three-day MotoGP test at Sepang with its new RC16.

The Forest Hill rider finished in 19th place overall in the Malaysian testing at the end of last month.

Smith was raring to get on the track for the first time in 2018 but a serious crash from team-mate Pol Espargaro on day two overshadowed the weekend.

However, the Austrian outfit said it took 'plenty of positives' from the weekend as Smith and other team-mate Mika Kallio were able to test themselves with an extensive testing programme.

Smith clocked his weekend's best time on day two with a time of 2:00.520 as he trailed team-mates Espargaro (2:00.262) and Kallio (2:00.464).

KTM took a new aerodynamic fairing to Sepang, though Smith only had limited track time with it.

The 27-year-old said: "Obviously it's a busy test schedule here in Sepang and after Pol's crash it has meant that myself and Mika have had to work through a lot.

"It's been a chance for us to evaluate a lot of different things and to give us a direction on what to do.

"On day three the grip was a little less and that means that it's good conditions for us to test in.

"Usually when the track gets grippy and hot we struggle a little bit so it's been good to have these conditions."

He added: "I'm generally quite pleased with what we've tested because I think that we've got a good base to work with at the Thailand tests in a few days time."

Espargaro said he felt 'lucky' to avoid serious injury when he crashed into a wall at over 250 km/h.

The next testing session will be in Thailand on February 16.

There will a final testing session in Qatar on March 1 before the 2018 season gets off to a racing start at the Losail International Circuit in the same country on March 18.

Bradley Smith tests out the new ride ahead of the season's starter in Qatar next month Picture: *Gold and Goose*

Neil pockets a win on return

Snooker

DIDCOT cueman Neil Craycraft earned his big break on the Cuestars snooker circuit with a winning return to the sport after a seven year absence.

The South of England Senior (40+) Tour wrapped up the fifth leg with a final showdown between the Oxfordshire champion and rankings leader Matt Ford.

Craycraft won the final 2-0 on home tables at the Jesters Snooker Club in Swindon to avenge a 2-0 defeat to Bracknell-based Ford in the group stages.

Victory pocketed the top potter £100 and 25 points on the leaderboard.

The Didcot snooker ace progressed to the final at the expense of Woking tennis coach John Motton, whom Craycraft dispatched 2-1 in the last-four match.

Southampton's Neil Carroll made his first semi-final appearance of the season in the other tie, losing 2-0 to Ford.

Ford remains in first place in Group C – known as the "group of death" – with Craycraft second.

However, Ford leads the group-stages overall with three tournaments to go.

Chandlers Ford Snooker Club in Eastleigh will host the sixth leg of eight when the championship gets back under way on Sunday February 18.

Jaguar turning up the heat after good finish in Chile

Nelson Piquet was in contention throughout in Chile but had to settle for sixth-place finish. Picture: *Panasonic Jaguar Racing*

Formula E

JAGUAR celebrated a double point-scoring weekend for the first time this season after both drivers finished in the top 10 at a dramatic Santiago E-Prix.

With hard-fought, wheel-to-wheel action from the front of the race, Mitch Evans made swift progress up the grid.

The New Zealander elbowed his way through the pack from P20 to cross the line at the inaugural Santiago E-Prix in seventh place.

Team-mate Nelson Piquet Jr, starting fifth on the grid, made a lightning start and battled for the lead throughout but had to settle for a sixth-placed finish.

The double points finish continued the Grove-based outfit's strong start to their second season in Formula E.

Evans said he was "very happy" to claim six points after fighting back from a disappointing qualifying.

"The important thing is that the Jaguar has the pace, as a team we are still learning but getting better all the time," added Piquet Jr, who scooped eight points in Chile.

Jaguar are fourth in the team standings with 54 points – the highest tally the team have ever achieved. Piquet Jr is fifth and Evans is seventh in the drivers' championship.

Grove-based driver Alex Lynn said he was happy with his team's – DS Virgin Racing – performance despite having to retire after losing a battle with his gearbox.

Round five of the all-electric series hits the streets of Mexico City on March 3.

Early promise hit by a nightmare nine holes

Golf

A DISASTROUS back nine ended Eddie Pepperell's bid to make the final round of the Maybank Championship in Malaysia.

The Abingdon golfer made the cut after a positive start and was only five shots off the lead heading into round three.

But the Frilford Heath member, who carded encouraging rounds of three-under par on days one and two for six-under par at the halfway stage, suffered a nightmare back nine in round three.

The collapse meant Pepperell was one of eight players to fail to make the final round in a rare 'extended' cut.

Round three began in steady fashion for the 27-year-old, who motored through the front-nine on level par after two birdies and bogeys cancelled each other out.

The final nine holes proved more problematic, however.

He hit four bogeys, a double bogey and a triple bogey to record a dismal eight-over par for the day, dropping him to two-over par and out of the competition.

The Maybank Championship was won by India's Shubhankar Sharma, on 21-under, two shots clear of Jorge Campillo.

Pepperell still earned €3,581 (around £3,183) in prize money for his 80th placed finish.

He is not playing in the ISPS Hana World Super 6 competition in Perth, Australia, which tees off today.

Legend passes some top tips

Basketball

YOUNG players at South Oxfordshire Heat Basketball Club received a masterclass from a British Olympian and decorated professional on Saturday.

Towering six foot eight basketball legend Drew Sullivan took control of the regular Saturday practice at Didcot Girls' School to put the children though their paces in an intensive session.

As well as the tough workout, the youth basketballers were taught about the importance of working as a team, hard work and discipline to achieve goals on and off the court.

Trustees from SOHBC said they were "happy to be able to provide these unique opportunities for young basketball players in Oxfordshire".

"It is important that the children interact with someone like Drew who has reached the highest level of UK basketball but is at the same time a great role model for respect and fair play."

The Olympian played College Basketball in the US for Villanova before successful stints in some of Europe's most competitive leagues, including the UK, Holland, Spain and Russia.

More than 100 children are registered as players at development side SOHBC competing in youth leagues.

The Club recently launched an U14 girls team and U14 girls league and welcomes new players at training sessions.

Sport

City face a fight for survival

By Owen Hughes

Oxford City

OXFORD City are without a win in five in the Vanarama National League South after slipping to a 2-1 defeat against fellow strugglers Concord Rangers on Saturday.

Hoops' hopes of salvaging a point from the away trip were dashed when the Beach Boys scored the match winner with just 10 minutes left.

An experimental formation featured Joe Oastler, Cristian Navarro and Conor Stevens lined up in a back three in front of 'keeper Craig King, leaving Eddie Jones and Freddie Grant to protect the flanks.

A midfield three of Mamadou Fofana, Godfrey Poku and Zac McEachran were deployed in the centre of the pitch while Matt Paterson cut a lonely figure up front with Rob Sinclair in behind.

Femi Akinwande opened the scoring with the first real chance of the half as the new-look Hoops struggled to get a foothold.

Running repairs to a set of wonky goalposts provided a brief stoppage in the half before King was forced into a save on 37 minutes from a Concord free kick from the edge of the area.

McEachran's wild shot five minutes later was soon forgotten when the young midfielder unleashed an effort that rattled the outside of Beach Boys' post.

It was the City goalpost's turn to feel the good vibrations in the second half as Akinwande came close to doubling his tally, crashing his effort against the woodwork.

McEachran pulled the strings for the Hoops as Grant met his cross at the back post to sweep home for the leveller on 57 minutes.

But with less than 10 minutes remaining, Stephen Cawley popped up with an emphatic finish to deny City a share of the spoils.

Manager Mark Jones said: "We are in a relegation battle now, there's no doubt about it.

"We've got to stick together and fight these next 13 games.

"I'm not a quitter, I'll keep going and try and prepare the players as best we can and hope the players can go on the pitch and do the job."

Freddie Grant looked to have rescued a point for Oxford City before heartbreak 10 minutes from time. Picture: *Michael Allen*

Hemel Hemstead Town make the trip to 13th placed Oxford City on Saturday.

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 3 February
Concord Rangers 2-1 **Oxford City**

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 3 February
Banbury United 5-0 Gosport Borough
Tuesday 6 February
Banbury United 1-1 Basingstoke Town

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 3 February
Beaconsfield Town 0-1 **Thame United**

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 3 February
Didcot Town 0-0 Swindon Supermarine
Kidlington 4-1 Cinderford Town
Shortwood United 2-1 **North Leigh**
Tuesday 6 February
Didcot Town 3-1 Salisbury

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 3 February
Abingdon United 4-2 Lydney Town
Burnham P-P **Wantage Town**
Oxford City Nomads 1-3 Ascot United
Monday 5 February
Woodley United 2-3 **Wantage Town**

Double delight for Didcot

Evo Stik round-up

A GEORGE Jeacock double helped Didcot Town increase the pressure at the top of the table in a mightily impressive 3-1 win at home to Salisbury on Tuesday.

The former Oxford United youngster converted from the spot within 10 minutes and doubled the lead on 28 minutes.

Stuart Green got the Whites back into it four minutes later with his 15th league goal of the season but they missed the chance to go in level at the break when Tom Whelan had a spot kick saved. It was a third penalty miss in four games for the Wiltshire side.

No team has more wins on the road than Salisbury, but the Railwaymen secured the points on the hour mark when Felipe Barcelos broke away to score.

Diddy also battled to a 0-0 draw at home to fellow high-flyers Swindon Supermarine on Saturday, despite Adam Learoyd seeing red for a lunge just after half time.

Also in Evo-Stik South West, Kidlington are within seven points of the play-offs with games in hand after beating Cinderford Town 4-1 on Saturday.

Mark Janes scored twice while Lance Williams and Duran Martin were also on target at Yarnton Road to stretch the Greens' unbeaten run to four games.

Josh Pin fires over during Didcot Town's 0-0 draw with Swindon Supermarine Picture: *Roger Neal*

North Leigh suffered more misery after they conceded a last-gasp goal to lose 2-1 at fellow strugglers Shortwood United. It was the Millers' eighth defeat in nine matches.

Butler serves two goals to give Utd win

Hellenic round-up

ABINGDON United recovered from their away defeat last time out to put four goals past visitors Lydney Town on Saturday.

The Vale side fell behind to a Ross Gabriel goal in the first half, before Thomas Butler scored two in the final five minutes to edge in front at the break.

Callum Harvey (58 minutes) and Dejon Noel-Williams (65) all but ended the contest before Declan Morley-Lynne grabbed a consolation with a minute to spare.

The 4-2 win at Northcourt Road means Abingdon leapfrog Oxford City Nomads into 12th on 32 points.

A failure to get out of the traps quick enough was the Nomads' undoing when Ascot United raced ahead through a second minute goal at the Oxford City Stadium.

Jack Tutton pulled one back for the home side on 60 minutes but was soon cancelled out by James Richardson (75) and George Lock (85) to make sure of the 3-1 defeat.

Wantage Town's trip to bottom club Burnham at the weekend was postponed, but the promotion hopefuls won a vital away clash with Woodley United 3-2 to remain third in the table on 63 points.

Nomads will be Burnham's next visitors on Saturday while Abingdon welcome Longlevens to Northcourt Road.

Wantage's next scheduled fixture is at home to Fairford Town on Saturday February 17.

Four points in four days a good return for Puritans

Banbury United

BANBURY United were unlucky not to follow up Saturday's 5-0 hammering of Gosport Borough with another three points at home to Basingstoke on Tuesday.

Ricky Johnson bagged a second-half hat trick at home to Gosport on Saturday to add to Elliot Sandy's penalty on 45 minutes and a volley from Jack Self mid-way through the second half.

The Puritans started Tuesday's game against Basingstoke in similar form and were rewarded with a goal on eight minutes when Luke Carnell followed up a Tom Winters free-kick palmed straight into his path.

First half dominance failed to deliver more goals and the home side were made to pay when Ben Wright snatched a 1-1 draw for Basingstoke with five minutes remaining.

Manager Mike Ford said after the game: "When you have two games over a Saturday and a Tuesday, you always look for four points and we've got them.

"On Saturday we had players that played well and we were winning, but we didn't have enough of those tonight [Tuesday].

"My big moan is the fact we didn't control the game. It's not ideal but we'll take that point."

Banbury sit ninth in the Evo-Stik South Premier on 50 points and now travel to Slough Town on Saturday.

Golly Goss! Thame net victory over promotion chasers

Thame United

THAME United caused a major upset in the Evo-Stik South East to trip up Beaconsfield Town's promotion charge.

The mid-table Oxfordshire side came away from Holloways Park with all three points after a dogged display to dig out a 1-0 win.

It was a game that reserved all of its action for a tense second half after a largely uneventful opening 45 minutes.

Thame's breakthrough came courtesy of Lynton Goss who tucked away the rebound from his missed penalty on 65 minutes.

A trip on Goss in the box after a through ball from Tom Ashworth left the referee with no option but to point to the spot.

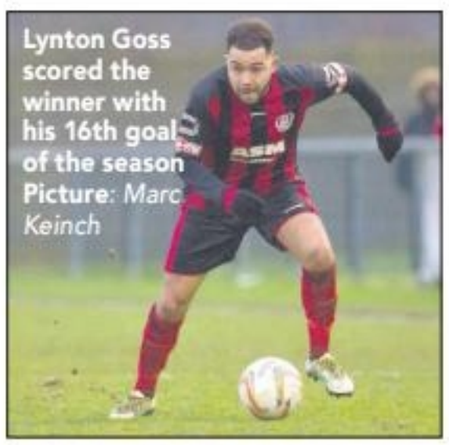
Goalkeeper Ravan Constable guessed the right way but could only parry the ball directly back towards Goss who slotted it into an open goal.

The away side finished the stronger as Beaconsfield were reduced to 10 men after Alexander Cathline was given his marching orders for an elbow to the jaw of Adam Morris.

An organised team performance saw out the game to move Thame to 10th in the division on 42 points.

They are nine points off the play-offs with games in hand on most teams.

Thame move on to prepare for the visit of third-bottom Hanwell Town on Saturday.



Lynton Goss scored the winner with his 16th goal of the season Picture: *Marc Keinch*

Rovers next as U's in no rush to name new boss

By George Welch

Derek Fazackerley is hoping for more of the same at home on Saturday and inset, managerial contender David Unsworth in his Everton days

OUFC

OXFORD United need to build on their heroics from the win over Charlton Athletic by replicating their performance against mid-table Bristol Rovers.

That is the message from caretaker manager Derek Fazackerley, who will lead out the U's at the Kassam for the first time on Saturday.

The 66-year-old, who joined the club at the same time as Michael Appleton in 2014, has tasked his side to find some consistency.

"I said to the players straight after the game that, as pleased as we are with the win, we have had many, many occasions, not just this season, where we have had fantastic results away and not been able to come home and put back-to-back results together," he said.

"That has to change and Saturday's performance is something we've got to build on. We have to make sure that in the games going forward we have that same focus, intensity, hunger and desire; all the things that we spoke about and which enabled us to achieve Saturday's result."

The Gas arrive in Grenoble Road on the back of a 2-1 defeat at home to surprise package Shrewsbury Town – but that loss was their first one in six games.

A bumper crowd is expected – Rovers sold out their allocation last week – with this fixture throwing up some entertaining contests in recent years.

Meanwhile, chairman Darryl Eales has insisted he is in no rush to appoint a permanent manager.

It has been 17 days since Pep Clotet was dismissed, and the club is taking its time to recruit.

The club has kept its cards close to its chest, although previous favourites Michael Appleton and Frank Lampard moved quickly to publicly rule themselves out of the running.

However, according to reports in the north west, Premier League side Everton have given the U's permission to speak to academy coach David Unsworth.

The 44-year-old oversaw the club's Under-23 outfit as they won the Premier League 2 title last season before serving as a stand-in at first-team level in October.

Before Sam Allardyce was unveiled as Ronald Koeman's replacement, Unsworth – known as Rhino – took charge of eight games in all competitions, winning just two of them.

Names in the frame

Latest odds from SkyBet:
David Unsworth 4/6
Craig Bellamy 7/4
Derek Fazackerley 6/1
Michael Beale 14/1
Paul Ince 18/1

Penalty drama knocks Ladies out of FA Cup

OUFCW

OXFORD United Ladies were on the wrong end of an FA Cup fourth round upset as they lost on penalties to Cardiff City Ladies on Sunday.

The U's were held to a 0-0 draw after extra time and the Welsh side, who play in the tier below in the WPL Southern Division, progressed with the 5-4 shootout victory.

United set the tempo from the off and dominated the early stages.

Kayleigh Hines fired well over with the first effort of the match before Emily Allen was thwarted by Estelle Randall in the Cardiff goal.

Both sides had their chances in the first half – Cori Williams went closest for the Bluebirds – but it remained goalless at the break.

Oxford came out firing again in the second period but were left frustrated by the impressive Randall.

Taome Oliver forced the keeper into a big save and Hannah Short crashed a header off the post when the stopper was finally beaten for the first time.

The best moment of the match came 10 minutes from time when Oliver, with the goal gaping, was again foiled by arguably the save of the season from Randall.

So extra time it was and Cardiff began to dominate.

Chloe O'Connor, Jemma Heath and Cori Williams could have easily won it for Cardiff.

Oliver went close again when she struck the bar in the dying moments, but this one was settled on penalties.

Emily Poole converted the Welsh side's winner.

Ex-youth coach lands job in New Zealand

FORMER Oxford United youth coach Des Buckingham has been appointed as the new head coach of New Zealand Under-20s.

The 32-year-old, originally from Cowley, will take up his position later this month.

Buckingham has also landed a role as assistant coach for the All Whites – the senior side – even though the head coach has yet to be announced.

The former United youth goalkeeper was a youth coach at the club between 2004 and 2014 before moving to the other side of the world to spend four years in New Zealand.

This included various roles at Wellington Phoenix, culminating with a spell in charge of the A-League side.

He has been involved with the Stoke Under-23 setup since last summer but has now been reunited with Chris Greenacre, his assistant at Wellington, in New Zealand.

Buckingham was appointed last month, the same time as José Figueira's selection as the Under-17 boss.

New Zealand Football technical director Andreas Heraf said: "We are really excited to have Des and José as our U-20 and U-17 coaches for the next World Cup cycle.

"They both bring a huge amount of high level coaching experience and the challenge for them is simple — to get our age group teams winning on the world stage, and get our best young players ready for the national team."

Buckingham's first task will be to guide Junior All Whites to the next FIFA World Cup in 2019 at a qualifying tournament in Tahiti in November.

Oxford United's youngsters avenged their 2-0 home league defeat to Exeter in December (pictured) with an impressive penalty win on Saturday Picture: *OUFC*

Character helped cup win

OUFC Under-18s

OXFORD United's youngsters relished the sweet taste of revenge as they progressed into the area finals of the League Cup.

The Under-18s advanced to the penultimate round of the competition with a dramatic 10-9 penalty shoot-out win against Exeter City on Saturday.

The young U's had lost twice to the EFL Youth Alliance South West champions already this season.

The pair of defeats bookended an impressive eight-match unbeaten run for the Yellows, which made getting their own back taste even sweeter for Leon Blackmore-Such's side.

The game ended 3-3 with the Oxford goals comeing from Owen James (twice) and right-back Dan Carr scoring the other to force penalties.

U's stopper Max Harris converted the winning penalty in sudden death to set up an area final against Luton Town.

Blackmore-Such praised "a great performance" and said: "Credit to all of the players. We defended well, we took our chances, and then it was a good test of nerves when it went to penalties."

He added: "Exeter have just won our league and have been in great form so when you factor in the journey down there then the odds were against us a little bit.

"We have spoken a lot this season about spirit and character and I think that's what got us through in the end."

United take on Luton Town at home in the Southern Area final on March 31.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Wigan Athletic	28	42	63
2	Shrewsbury Town	29	18	61
3	Blackburn Rovers	30	25	59
4	Scunthorpe United	31	13	54
5	Rotherham United	30	14	50
6	Bradford City	31	-2	48
7	Charlton Athletic	29	3	46
8	Peterborough United	29	8	43
9	Portsmouth	30	1	43
10	Oxford United	30	2	41
11	Plymouth Argyle	31	-4	41
12	Gillingham	30	0	40
13	Bristol Rovers	30	-4	39
14	Doncaster Rovers	31	-1	38
15	Southend United	30	-13	37
16	Walsall	29	-5	36
17	Fleetwood Town	30	-6	36
18	Blackpool	30	-6	34
19	AFC Wimbledon	30	-6	34
20	Northampton Town	31	-23	33
21	Oldham Athletic	31	-13	32
22	MK Dons	29	-12	30
23	Rochdale	27	-10	25
24	Bury	30	-21	24

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More sport inside: U's: 'No need to rush search for new manager' | MotoGP: Promising testing | Golf: Third round horror show in Malaysia

Impressive performance yields right result for Faz

By George Welch

Charlton Athletic 2

Ahmed Kashi 63, Josh Magennis 78

Oxford United 3

James Henry 76, Todd Kane 89, Ryan Ledson 90+4

Attendance: 11,747 (1,381 away)

CARETAKER boss Derek Fazackerley praised his 'outstanding' Oxford United players after dramatic late goals from debutant Todd Kane and Ryan Ledson fired the U's to an excellent win at Charlton Athletic.

The managerless side put on quite a show as they gallantly fought back from a goal down on two occasions to snatch all three points at the death.

Following a goalless first half the home side took the lead when Ahmed Kashi capitalised on John Mousinho's error just after the hour.

James Henry equalised but United appeared to have thrown it away just two minutes later when Northern Ireland international Josh Magennis put the Addicts in front again.

Kane, on loan from Chelsea, produced an accomplished finish to equalise in the 89th minute and, five minutes later, Ledson grabbed the winner with a stunning side-footed effort from 18 yards.

The thrilling win sent nearly 1,400 United fans – and Fazackerley – into pure jubilation.

"I'm obviously pleased with the result and the performance," Fazackerley said. "I said before the game to the players that irrespective of the result what we first and foremost needed was a performance – and I thought the performance throughout was outstanding in many aspects.

"The fact we got a result out of it as well rewarded them for their persistence, the never say die attitude and the ability, focus and concentration that they put into the game."

It was a difficult first game for the temporary boss who lost striker Wes Thomas in the warm up and his replacement, Jon Obika, limped off in the first half.

And at the other end, the usual defensive failings persisted.

He added: "Being a defender myself it is absolutely frustrating that we've again leaked a couple of goals which has given us a problem that we shouldn't have had.

"But, in saying that, I thought the honesty, endeavour, humility and integrity of the players got them back into the game and it was really pleasing to see."

The U's, up two positions to 10th in League One, host Bristol Rovers on Saturday in Fazackerley's first game in charge at the Kassam.

Ryan Ledson is mobbed by his teammates after scoring a last-gasp winner for the U's and inset, James Henry shoots to bring the game level at 1-1
Pictures: *Darrell Fisher*

Fans support and singing crucial to U's

GOAL scoring hero Ryan Ledson dedicated his 94th minute winner to the hordes of Oxford United fans who follow the team up and down – and across – the country.

The 20-year-old midfielder slotted home impressively from the edge of the penalty area to complete a dramatic 3-2 victory at Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

The winner sparked delirious scenes as Ledson, inset, who was heavily linked with a move to the Championship last month, celebrated enthusiastically with the 1,400 strong United contingent.

"You know me and the fans – we have a great relationship and that [goal] was for them," the Scouser said.

"They come in their numbers and sing their hearts out which all the boys appreciate."

Oxford turned down two bids from not-so-secret admirers Preston North End in the January transfer window.

The former Everton trainee, who rubbished reports of handing in a transfer request, scored his third goal of the season with the last-gasp strike.

Of the win, he said: "Performance wise we were very good. If we get the performance right the result will take care of itself.

"Maybe there were one or two mistakes and we got punished for it but we were clinical and we could have had a couple more.

"We dug in really well, which is better than what we've been doing in recent weeks...we just need to back it up [against Bristol Rovers on Saturday]."

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